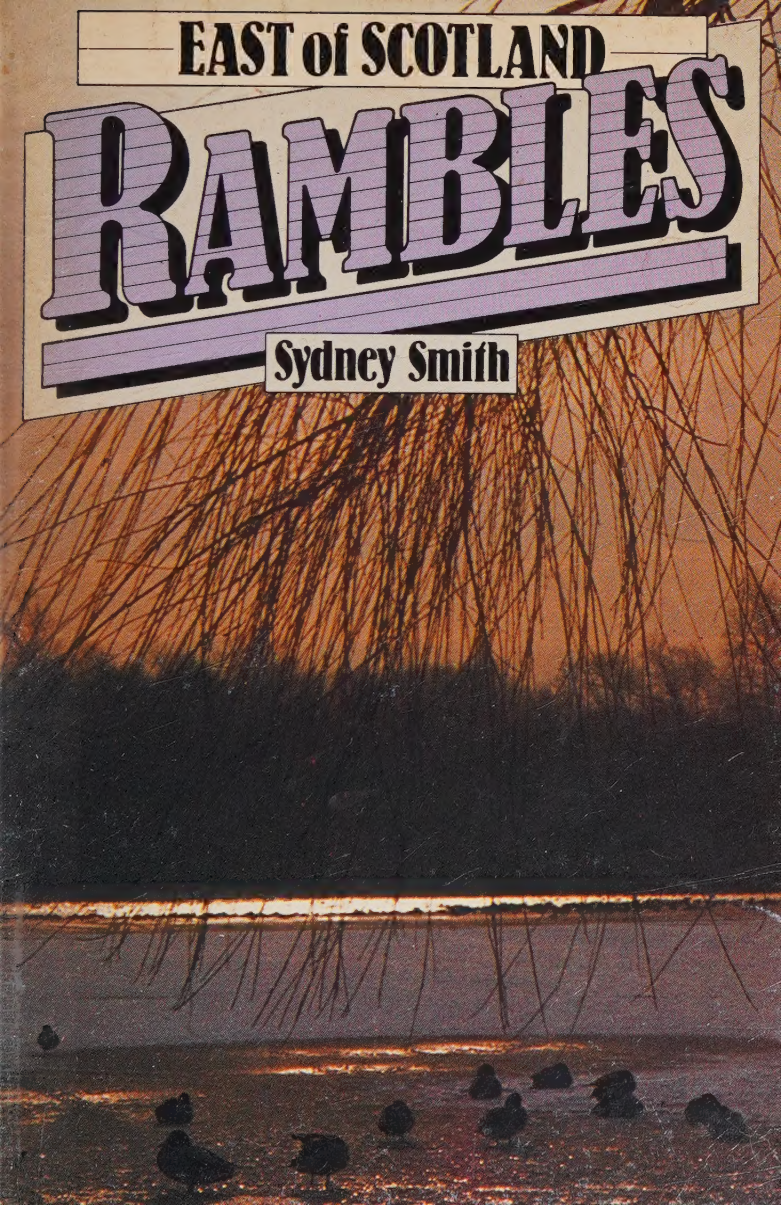
EAST of SCOTLAND

RAMBLES

Sydney Smith



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EAST OF SCOTLAND RAMBLES

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EAST OF SCOTLAND RAMBLES

Sydney Smith

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General Introduction

A BRIEF HISTORY

THE origins of rambling are obscure. Possibly it was not till the mid eighteenth century that it became safe to wander far from the towns. In the country one might meet with characters who 'had taken to the road', but with the Industrial Revolution and the country being criss-crossed with railways, roads and canals – not to mention the beginning of the police force – these people gradually vanished from the scene. It was now the era of the naturalist, but there were also men of a humbler sort who simply wanted to get away for an hour or two from the factory or mill into the peace of the countryside.

In Victorian times family parties would go out on a Saturday afternoon for a picnic in some nearby wood, or on the common. Ninety years ago my grandfather and some of his children would spend Sunday on the Pentlands, but would wait till after dark before venturing home in their travel-stained clothing. When they could afford it, people would take a train ride on the newly-constructed railways just for the thrill of it.

The nineteenth century passed and still the lone rambler wended his unrecorded way. There had been brake parties for some years. A group of men would take a train to some suburban station where a hired brake would be waiting to transport them to a tavern a few miles away; after a meal and drinks, it was back to the horses and the train. But this did not appeal to what we may poetically call the 'Lover of Nature'. With the complete replacement of the horse tram by the cable cars in the 1870s, he could soon be in the open country.

Men now came together to discuss ways to improve the health of the country. The numbers of men rejected as unfit for the Boer War had come as a shock. They wanted to improve their health, and that of the nation. During the week they met to hold lectures on food and health, while at the weekends, they had outings. First-aid classes were to be found in every district and gradually women were attracted to the movement. The younger people had parallel organisations in the rapidly-growing Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements. Curiously, in these early years, the ramblers never changed their fashions. Women wore long skirts, town boots and Ulsters (a long, loose overcoat). The men wore their second-best boots, an old pair of trousers, jacket and heavy raincoat, and always a hat. For a man to go without a hat in those days was to be labelled a crank.

In 1912 in Germany there began the Youth Hostel Movement which was to have far-reaching influence over rambling in general.

It was eclipsed by the 1914–18 War, but reappeared in the 1920s and spread across Europe. It reached Scotland in 1931 and was taken up enthusiastically by the young and the not-so-young. For the ramblers of the Thirties perhaps the greatest change was in fashions. Kilts, shorts and divided skirts became the order of the day, and at last ramblers knew the delight of having their knees free. Hats had gone, so had ties. It was down to a shirt and shorts and light-weight rainwear – shirts could even be removed for sunbathing! Today's freedom of dress sprang partly from those pioneers of the Thirties.

The rambling movement gave women a freedom hitherto unknown. In late Victorian times and even in the Edwardian era it was unthinkable for a woman to go anywhere on her own. Moreover their joining the men on Saturday afternoons in the early clubs was a daring departure. But in the Thirties it became accepted that a respectable girl could set out on a tour on her own and be seen walking country roads or hill-climbing with bare legs and a rucksack.

Finally it must be said that, despite the companionship of the clubs associated with the rambling movement, there are, of course, many ramblers who prefer their own company in the quiet places, who avoid nature trails and whose greatest satisfaction is to spend an entire day on the hills without meeting another person, especially a rambler!

RAMBLING CLUBS

Organisations, like the features described in the rambles, have a habit of not staying put. At the end of December 1892, a meeting was held in the Christian Institute in Glasgow to form the Scottish Ramblers' Alliance. Ten clubs were mentioned though none was named; from the reports of the speeches it appears that the walks were for the summer months only – understandable when one remembers the road conditions of that time. Even today the route of a ramble has to take into consideration the constitution of the more dainty-footed, Saturday-afternoon ramblers. Nevertheless, the early clubs may have failed because of the lapse of activity – and consequent loss of interest – during the winter.

There was a resurgence of interest in rambling in the 1920s, and in the 1930s the Scottish Ramblers' Federation (founded 1932) was strong enough to charter a train and boat for the day for its members. Perhaps its highlight was in 1939 when *The Maid of the Loch* decanted 500 members at Rowardennan to climb the Ben, and equal numbers at Tarbet for the Cobbler. But by the end of the War most of the smaller clubs had ceased through loss of members; the Federation itself finished about ten years later. However, the

English-based Ramblers' Association has since formed branches in Scotland. At present they do not have regular weekly meetings but specialise in certain climbs.

The American writer Thoreau as an explanation of his self-imposed solitude offered the dictum that it was 'to transact some private business with the fewest obstacles'. Some ramblers use walking as the best way of getting away from company, particularly if they live in towns or cities; but others may well wish to benefit from the observations and advice of those more experienced walkers and, in their turn, hand it on to a new generation. Perhaps a more obvious reason for the growth of rambling clubs is that anyone is intimidated by a first visit to windswept moorland or a lonely hill top and company can be very welcome. There are always a number of rambling clubs associated with churches, youth groups and student organisations. Apart from these there are two main ones which the beginner might think of joining. The first is the Co-operative Holidays Association. A branch of an English group, it was well-organised with holiday guest houses, each a limited liability company. The name, when found to have other implications, was changed (keeping the same initials) to its present form – the Countrywide Holidays Association. Strangely enough, the local branches still keep to Saturday afternoons only for their rambles, though of course the guest houses function on Sundays. In the early days another group with the same founder grew alongside the CHA, a group devoted to a simpler way of life at guest houses – namely the Holiday Fellowship Association, started in 1917.

Addresses of the secretaries of all three groups should be available at information bureaux. All clubs have winter and summer programmes available to anyone who encloses a stamped self-addressed envelope.

PREPARATION FOR RAMBLING

Clothing: The basic essentials are a strong pair of boots, woollen socks, rainwear, spare jersey, waterproof trousers, leggings or shorts and an anorak. *Food:* Here no advice can be given, since food is largely a matter of personal taste. While some ramblers take a carrot and an apple for the whole day, others take along a stove to brew up tea. However, a little extra to one's needs should be taken for emergencies, and it is worth mentioning that nothing satisfies a thirst, after a climb to a mountain top, like a small tin of fruit salad. The tins are found buried in many a mountain cairn. *Other items:* It is advisable to carry a stick as support when descending grassy hillsides, and to ward off inquisitive cattle. Regarding cattle, always keep to the side of a field to make a quick exit should a bull suddenly

emerge from the herd. Apart from a small first-aid kit and spare laces, a safety pin or two is handy, as many a pair of slacks or trousers have been ripped on barbed wire. If a walk is known to involve high fences, take along a piece of strong plastic sheeting (or pick up a cattle-feed bag) to cover the barbs. On a really wet day – for ramblers like golfers don't give up easily – put the contents of your rucksack in a plastic bag. Maps should be kept in a waterproof bag at all times. One slip into a fast-moving burn or a fall into a marshy patch can soak a side pocket. The lone rambler should always carry a map of the district and a whistle in case of a mishap.

There is no closed season for the rambler's activities and he can choose his venue according to fitness, time or inclination. Many ramblers who took to the outdoor life in their twenties are still active fifty years later. If a sad note is introduced with the departure of many of their contemporaries, there is the pleasure of teaching the up-and-coming generation all the tricks of the trade. So the pleasures of rambling are truly manifold.

SOME POINTS WORTH REMEMBERING

It is assumed that anyone going rambling already appreciates the attractions of country life and will want to make things as easy as possible for those who live and work there. The Country Code contains the following advice: Guard against all risk of fire. Fasten all gates and keep to paths when crossing farm land. Avoid damaging fences, hedges and walls. Leave no litter and safeguard water supplies. Protect wildlife, wild flowers and trees. Go carefully on country roads, if you are a driver or cyclist. Respect the life of the countryside.

Experienced ramblers will go further than this and, for example, inform the farmer if one of his sheep or lambs is in danger. They will bury bottles lying out in the open as in bright sunlight these could start fires, as well as being a danger to livestock. They might also patch up a damaged dyke if cattle are likely to try to escape through the gap. They might also warn other walkers with dogs if there is lambing going on in the vicinity.

Ramblers seldom run into trouble over rights of way, particularly in Scotland. The newcomer is advised to obtain a booklet *The Right of Way (Scotland)* from his local SYHA office and this will tell him all he needs to know about rights of way and the law of trespass.

Whilst it is obviously not economical for landowners to employ men to watch over deserted moor and most will not object to the walker if he is not carrying rod or gun, it is sensible to obtain permission before visiting private areas, especially where a large group is involved.

Some Leisure and Recreation Departments of local authorities now issue maps of their area showing rights of way. Practically no one has been prosecuted in recent years for walking over open country, although they could be asked to leave by the quickest route even if no damage has been caused. Farmers with long memories may have grudges against previous ramblers who have left their mark on his land. If you are considerate and reasonable he may well change his opinion of ramblers as a species.

THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

This is a voluntary association with several hundred affiliated rambling clubs in the UK and a membership of 20,000. Its objects are: to foster a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside; to work for the preservation of footpaths; and to press for the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty and the preservation of public access to open country. The Association produces informative pamphlets and a quarterly journal *Rucksack*. Further information may be obtained from 1–4 Crawford Mews, York Street, London W1H 1PT (Tel: 01-262 1477).

NOTE

All OS sheet numbers mentioned in this book refer to the OS 1:50,000 map series.

NEWHAVEN
LEITH DOCKS
Firth of Forth
Lauriston Castle
Botanic Gardens
DEAN VILLAGE
Leith Walk
PORTOBELLO
Holyrood Park
EDINBURGH ZOO
Corstorphine Hill
Edinburgh Castle
Duddingston Loch
Craigmillar Castle
Braid Hills
EDINBURGH WALKS
1 DEAN VILLAGE
2 PRINCES STREET & CALTON HILL
3 THE ROYAL MILE
4 HOLYROOD PARK
5 PORTOBELLO TO DUDDINGSTON
6 BRAID HILLS & BLACKFORD HILL
7 LEITH WALK TO MEADOWBANK
8 BOTANIC GARDENS & NEWHAVEN
9 LAURISTON CASTLE & CORSTORPHINE HILL
10 SOUTHSIDE SAUNTER TO CRAIGMILLAR

Edinburgh Walks

TOURIST literature likes to call Edinburgh 'the Athens of the North'; the first-time visitor will soon find the comparison strained, especially when the east wind whips down Princes Street. More importantly, it misleads the viewer into thinking that Edinburgh has always been a city of glittering carved stone.

In the 12th century King David I began the formation of a typical medieval town at the top of the High Street, where all the houses were timber-built, of two or three storeys with overhanging gables. And so it remained until the 16th century when outward expansion was curtailed by the building of the Flodden Wall, and Edinburgh started to build upwards – in stone. Daniel Defoe evoked the living conditions of the Old Town in 1724: 'Although many cities have more people in them, yet I believe there is none in the world where so many people live in so little room. After ten at night you run a great risk . . . of having chamber pots of ordure thrown upon your head.'

Not until the 1760s was work begun on the New Town of Edinburgh between Princes Street and Queen Street, and the Mound was built to link the Old with the New. Today much of Princes Street is 19th-century architecture, as is the so-called Second New Town which was originally planned to stretch down to the new docks at Leith. Many of the vennels around the High Street had degenerated into slums and had to be cleared and rebuilt.

There has always been an instinct for preservation in the city, and today this makes it exciting territory for the walker. These walks will show the main historical buildings and pleasing variety of architecture in the centre and even take in some hill walks within minutes of Princes Street. However, we cannot hope to describe the many museums, galleries and historical associations with which the city abounds. Other guide books, notably *Essential Edinburgh* by Alan Hamilton (1978), will be needed for this. Guide books and tourist information are available at the information office on Waverley Bridge or from the city's many bookshops.

DEAN VILLAGE

Start and finish at Haymarket. 3 miles.

When the Dean Bridge was built by Telford in 1829-31 over the deep gorge of the Water of Leith, the old Dean village was isolated from through traffic and has therefore remained much as it was then. From the Haymarket walk down Grosvenor Street and turn right into Lansdowne Crescent. One is surprised by the sudden appearance of St Mary's Cathedral (1879, Sir G. Gilbert Scott) with its resemblance to Cologne Cathedral. From Palmerston Place turn right along Chester Street and Drumsheugh Gdns to reach busy Queensferry Street, admiring the late-Regency iron balconies and the massive railings guarding the basements. Both decorative and functional, a number of them fell casualty to the war effort and have not been replaced.

At the far end of Dean Bridge is a church which now serves as an electricity sub-station. Proceed down Bell's Brae, noticing the cottages that originally belonged to those working in the flour mills in the village. At the foot is a 17th-century granary, now restored, bearing the motto: 'God bless the baxters (bakers) of Edinburgh who built this house'. Looking up at the bridge, notice how the footpath has a separate set of arches masking the main pillars which are in fact hollow.

At present the Water of Leith is a trickle, but 800 years ago it was probably a torrent leaping through thick forests. From earliest times there has been a ford here for soldiers, pilgrims and packmen; and the history of Dean Village probably stretches as far back as that of Edinburgh Castle and the High Street. By 300 years ago there were 11 mills, which means that the village would have been humming with activity – a contrast to the peaceful scene today. A few houses have been converted and modernised and there is a contemporary building at the beginning of Dean Path.

Find Miller Row, where three mill wheels are placed as a monument, and follow the river back under the bridge, passing St Bernard's Well, an open rotunda built in 1789 over a spring with curative powers. The statue in the middle represents the goddess Hygieia and the plaque tells us that this was another example of Victorian private philanthropy, summed up in the curious tag 'Liberal Deviseth Liberal Things'. Either continue along to Saunders St and Stockbridge or retrace your steps to Dean Path, leading to Dean Cemetery which contains imposing monuments to, among others, Professor John Wilson (Christopher North of *Blackwood's Magazine*) and Lord Cockburn as well as James Nasmyth, inventor of the steam hammer. From here it is also

possible to see the fantastic architecture of Daniel Stewart's College (1855) and the neo-Baroque style of the Dean Education Centre, originally built (1833) as the Dean Orphanage. The contrast with the simplicity of the village architecture will give the walker mental nourishment as he returns to Princes Street.

PRINCES STREET AND CALTON HILL

West End to Waterloo Place. 1 mile.

Many claims, not always apparent to the walker who avoids crowds where possible, are made for the attractions of Princes Street. Almost a mile long, it is perhaps unique in being totally open on one side to breath-taking views. Whether the architecture on the north of the street is admirable is much debated. On a historical note, the street was known as Lang Dykes in the 18th century; but when George III visited Edinburgh it was decided to adopt the present name in honour of his two sons.

Starting at the West End, it is worth going into St John's Episcopal Church (1817) which is modelled on St George's Chapel at Windsor. In the nearby St Cuthbert's graveyard (entry from King's Stables Road) is a headstone to Thomas de Quincey. It is best to avoid the jam in Princes Street and walk along the path in West Princes St Gardens, noting that until the turn of the century there was a row of trees isolating the street from the peaceful gardens. The dominant feature is the Castle Rock; for an account of its geological formation you will find a display board just up from the bandstand. Behind the bandstand is a foot-bridge over the railway leading to the ruin of the Wellhouse Tower, built in the 14th century as a water supply for the castle. Just before taking the steps up to the Mound, notice the floral clock (supposed to be the world's oldest) overlooked by the statue of Allan Ramsay, poet and bookseller, whose Goosepie Lodge is to be found on the Castlehill in Ramsay Gardens.

The next points of interest are the two neo-classical buildings by W. H. Playfair: the Royal Scottish Academy buildings (1826) and the National Gallery of Scotland (1859). Nearby is the Hyde Park Corner of Edinburgh, although nowadays the speakers get sparse audiences. Behind are the Playfair Steps leading up to the Mound. This comprises earth and rubble created by the building of the first New Town; due to its steepness and regular use as a bus route heating elements were put under the surface to melt ice. When the railway was built, in the 1840s, there was trouble for the tunnellers,

as the earth in the Mound was not sufficiently compacted after 50 years. The main building at the top of the Mound is the Assembly Hall used by the Church of Scotland for their annual General Assembly. Despite its historic appearance it was not built until 1859 by David Bryce, the Gothic Revival architect.

Cross to East Princes Street Gardens to see the Scott Monument, 200 feet high. Adorned with 64 statues of characters from the novels, it was completed in 1846 to the designs of George Meikle Kemp, who was once a shepherd's boy. There are nearly 300 steps and it is quite a squeeze to get to the top.

Rejoining Princes Street look across at Jenner's department store, completed in 1907, which was the first steel-framed building in Scotland. Further along, next to the Adam brothers' Register House (begun in 1774 but not completed until 1827) is the site of the first dwelling house to be built in the New Town, with the house of Archibald Constable, Scott's publisher, next door. Woolworths now occupies the site.

With a backward glance at the grimy clock tower of the North British Hotel cross to Waterloo Place at the head of Leith Walk, opposite the St James Centre – the most recent piece of modern architecture in the New Town. A steep flight of steps leads up to Calton Hill and the Parthenon, raised to commemorate the Scots who died in the Napoleonic Wars. There are only 12 columns because the money ran out. On the southern brow of the hill is the Nelson Monument from the top of which a ball is dropped at 1 pm every day for the benefit of ships out in the Forth. There are also the two observatories, built in 1776 and 1818. The view is breathtaking and the visitor could spend hours looking at the Lomond Hills to the North and back to the vista of Princes Street, Arthur's Seat and the Castle. On the way down notice St Andrews House, the home of the Scottish Office, built in 1939 on the site of Calton Jail. Further east is the Royal High School (1829), converted for use as premises for the projected Scottish Assembly, but now to be used for some other purpose, perhaps an art gallery. Returning to Waterloo Place you should take the opportunity of visiting the old Calton burial ground, where many of the leading figures of the Enlightenment are buried, including the philosopher David Hume.

THE ROYAL MILE

Start at the Castle and finish at Holyrood Palace. 1 mile.

One might think a mile-long walk downhill would be accomplished in no time, but not Edinburgh's Royal Mile (so called because monarchs would frequently pass up or down it from the Castle to the Royal Palace of Holyrood). There are so many points of historical interest, houses of famous people, museums, graveyards and pubs that a week would be needed to do them justice. For Edinburgh Castle allow two hours for a guided tour and a walk-about.

It is interesting to go up to the highest point of the castle for the view over to the Pentlands, where Swanston can be seen below the T-shaped wood. It is worth going to see Mons Meg, now on display in the French Prisons. This is a 15th-century bombard cannon whose barrel is over 13 feet long; it is said to have fired a cannonball as heavy as a cow, but it burst during a royal salute in 1682. Animal-lovers will want to visit the cemetery for soldier's dogs. On the way out notice the Esplanade where the military tattoo is staged during the Edinburgh Festival, with seating provided for 10,000 people. It was once a favourite place for executions.

After leaving the castle esplanade look on the right for the 17th-century Cannonball House in whose wall a cannonball is firmly cemented; contrary to popular myth, it marks the gravitation height reached by the water piped here from the original reservoir at Comiston Springs on Blackford Hill. In Ramsay Gardens look for Allan Ramsay's octagonal Goosepie House, now owned by a bank. At the top of Ramsay Lane is the Camera Obscura, providing a bird's eye view of the city.

The next section of the Royal Mile is called the Lawnmarket, so named because it was the traditional place to sell woven cloth. In this area also many of the aristocracy had town houses on the middle floors of the tenements, usually entered from one of the numerous closes leading off the street into a narrow passage. The upper and lower storeys were inhabited by (progressively) merchants, artisans, servants and the feckless poor, but all shared the same stair. This lasted until the wealthy element moved to houses in the New Town.

Boswell brought Dr Johnson here (an Edinburgh lady described him as 'a great brute') and Burns found lodgings here in 1786 at 1/6d a week. He was well placed to visit the bookseller William Creech who printed the second edition of his poems. His shop was in the Luckenbooths (locked-up booths) a straggling line of tenements with shops jammed in the middle of the street by St Giles' Cathedral, but removed in 1817. The Kirk is worth visiting, being mainly 15th-century, since in its time it has served as Parliament

House and the scene for witchcraft trials. It also contains amongst many commemorative plaques the R. L. Stevenson medallion.

Turning right on to George IV Bridge, pass over the Cowgate and look for the fountain to Greyfriars Bobby on the right at the top of Candlemaker Row. His story is told at Huntly House museum in the Canongate. Go through the gates to visit Greyfriars Kirk, the first post-Reformation church in Edinburgh, and the graveyard which houses some elaborate tombstones. There are unusual views of the city and also of George Heriot's School (1660) built in the style of Inigo Jones as a hospital from the estate of Jinglin' Geordie who was a goldsmith and friend of James VI.

Continue on to Forrest Road, turn left into Teviot Place, and right into Bristo Street where there is a house that was the office of the disastrous Darien scheme. Look for the Royal Scottish Museum in Chambers Street, with its imposing stone frontage. Amongst the many exhibits is a water wheel which is set in motion at 11.15 am and 4 pm. Scott was born in College Wynd, now Guthrie Street.

Return along George IV Bridge and turn right towards Parliament Square and St Giles. Notice the shape of a heart in the cobblestones which marked the site of the Tolbooth. Although built as a meeting-place for the Town Council, it was also the place where you paid local taxes or tolls. Part of the building was used as a prison. It was pulled down along with the Luckenbooths, and its only memorial is the ironical soubriquet 'The Heart of Midlothian'.

The next landmark is John Knox's House at the bottom of the High Street. Although it was certainly standing in the mid-16th century there is no proof Knox lived here, but it is intriguing to notice in one of the rooms of the house that part of the panelling has been removed to reveal a ceiling painting of a woodland nymph wearing only a leaf. Opposite is the fascinating Museum of Childhood.

Passing Jeffrey Street (named after Francis Jeffrey, who edited the *Edinburgh Review*) we enter the Canongate where the Netherbow Port stood. This was one of seven gateways in the Flodden Wall and is marked by brass outlines in the causeway.

The Canongate was once Edinburgh's Shaftesbury Avenue (there is still a Playhouse Close) and the Rev John Home's *Douglas* was put on here in 1756 for which the author was unfrocked. On the right is Moray House in the grounds of which the Treaty of Union was signed in a cellar. They are now occupied by a College of Education containing a number of original buildings, including the house in St John's Street where Smollet wrote *Humphry Clinker*. On the left is the 16th-century Canongate Tolbooth with its Victorian Clock, now an annexe of Huntly House museum across the street, devoted to

local history. Further down is Panmure House, once the home of Adam Smith, the economist, and recently restored by Lord Thomson of Fleet. White Horse Close has also been restored; the inn was the starting-point of the London stagecoach.

By now the gates of Holyrood are in view. The original palace was built by James IV as a rural retreat, and it is important to realise that it was sufficiently separate from the city for Prince Charlie to hold a celebration here while the castle was still in the possession of Hanoverian troops. At the foot of Abbeyhill a restored tenement was once part of the sanctuary of Holyrood where, by inhabiting one of the houses of refuge, it was possible to avoid prosecution by creditors. Thomas de Quincey the opium-taker was one of those who took regular advantage of this facility until the abolition of imprisonment for debt in 1880.

A tour of the Palace and the Abbey grounds will take the best part of an afternoon.

HOLYROOD PARK

Start and finish at Holyrood Palace. Steep path walking. 5 miles.

A stranger expecting a walk in a town park will be in for a big surprise, for the acres adjoining the Palace contain two large lochs, windswept heathland and dramatic cliffs topping 800 feet. With an effort all this can be covered in a day, because the park is traversed by drive-ways with a good walking surface.

Starting at the ruins of Holyrood Abbey, join the path leading from Croft-an-Righ (The King's Farm) to Queen's Drive and follow this round the top of St Margaret's Loch (named after Queen Margaret, Mother of David I). Look for the well which is set into the hillside above. A walk of about a mile brings you to Dunsapie Loch and later to Duddingston Loch. This road passes the site of the Innocent Railway (1831–45) running from St Leonard's to Dalkeith. The name was given because no one was killed during its construction or operation. The carriages were horse-drawn. Keep to the southern road going under Samson's Ribs, which have only recently been climbed, until the University Halls of Residence (see *Southside Saunter*) and the Commonwealth Pool are seen on the left. Now the track lies northward to rejoin Queen's Drive at Powderhouse Corner.

From here climb up to the track through Hunter's Bog which leads to Haggis Knowe and the ruins of St Anthony's Chapel. Nearby are the remains of a hermitage built into the rock; this was

originally occupied by Knights Hospitallers who could watch for ships entering Leith Harbour from this viewpoint. The way to Arthur's Seat is due south along the path known as Dry Dam. From the top of this volcanic plug (823 ft) there are unrivalled panoramas of the city and on a clear day the Grampians and Lochnagar (3786 ft) can be seen nearly 90 miles away to the north. It was from this point that the chief character in *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* saw the Brocken spectre reflected in the mist; Hogg himself called his novel 'a story replete with horrors'. Descend to the car park at Dunsapie Loch.

Follow Queen's Drive southwards, this time taking the road above Samson's Ribs, which leads on to the Radical Road below Salisbury Crags. The road was built in 1820 to take the steam out of radical discontent at unemployment after the Napoleonic Wars. There was also a demand for greater suffrage. The name which has stuck is therefore inappropriate, especially since the Liberal Party at the time was called the Radical Party. Sir Walter Scott and others who conceived the scheme were staunch Tories.

Whilst descending the Radical Road the sounds from the streets below are heard with startling clarity, perhaps being reflected from the crags behind. At one point in the crags is Cat's Nick, which is an accredited climb in the mountaineering tables. More poetically, there is a tradition that girls who climb Arthur's Seat on May 1st and wipe their face with dew would remain beautiful.

PORTOBELLO TO DUDDINGSTON

Start at Waterloo Place, finish at the Mound. 3 miles flat walk.

Board the Eastfield bus (No 26 or 86) at Waterloo Place. It is a pleasant run eastwards between Calton Hill and Holyrood and then along Portobello Road, but get out at King's Road near the demolished power station and swimming baths. Portobello's heyday was in the Edwardian era when there was a permanent fairground off Seafield Road (burnt during World War I) and bathing machines on the beach. In 1939 an open-air swimming pool was provided, with a wave-making machine. Today the sand looks fresh and there are plenty of restaurants and hotels; the Sunday opening of pubs has provided a further attraction.

The name Portobello comes from the name of a house built by a sailor who fought in the 18th-century sea battle of Puerto Bello in Panama. Joppa is also supposed to have middle-eastern connections. Near the swimming pool, in Bridge Street, is the

birthplace of Harry Lauder; from here walk towards the sea and continue for 1½ miles along the promenade to the Musselburgh Road and the junction with Milton Road East. The walker now turns west along Milton Road towards Duddingston golf-course and the distant Arthur's Seat.

After another 1½ miles the road bends right and the entrance to the golf-course is seen between the gates and a wall. Follow this road through the trees and keep right for the village of Duddingston. Turn left then right into Old Church Lane; visit the 12th-century church, largely restored 90 years ago. Outside are a pair of jougs or branks, the collar being fastened to the neck of penitents who were reviled by those purer souls leaving after the service. At some point in the 1920s they were stolen, so the present set are unlikely to be 17th-century. Also worth seeing is the manse, where Scott stayed and wrote part of *Heart of Midlothian,* and the rest of the village which consists largely of listed buildings and is pleasantly shaded with trees.

From Duddingston Road West take a No 42 bus back to The Mound. An extension to this walk is to visit the old mills and follow the path through Figgate Burn Park, returning to Portobello High Street for the Nos 26, 86, 15 buses back to Princes Street.

BRAID HILLS AND BLACKFORD HILL

Start and finish at Morningside. Hill walking and tracks. 4 miles.

This is an ideal walk for a Sunday afternoon in winter, as much of the ground is under cultivation. Take the Fairmilehead bus (Nos 11, 15) from Princes Street down Morningside Road and get off just past Braidburn Valley Park with its open-air theatre. Look for Comiston Springs which leads up to the 17th-century source of Edinburgh's water supply. In Comiston Springs Avenue are four springs (after which some of the streets are named) and in Oxgangs Loan the water house from which pipes took the water to the Castlehill. Nearby is the Pentland Hills Hotel, built in 1815 as Comiston House; in the grounds is a 16th-century doocot.

Go back to Comiston Road and look for Comiston Rise, leading down to Braid Road and the golf-course. A track will be found on the right leading to Mortonhall, a private house built in 1769 for a city merchant. From here another path leads up to Meadowhead Farm and, skirting the east side of the golf-course, joins Braid Hills Drive by Liberton Tower, a four-storey 15th-century keep with an adjoining farm steading, bearing the date 1701. Turn left along

Braid Hills Drive and look for a wooded track north towards Blackford Quarry and the radio mast; this crosses the Braid Burn and the path up to the Observatory will be seen to the left.

The Royal Observatory (1896) is an important centre for measuring and studying earthquakes; it is also involved in research into advanced instrumentation for astronomy. The building is under the control of the Astronomer Royal for Scotland. From the top of Blackford Hill (540 ft) surrounding hills can be identified from a plaque; the Forth Bridges can just be seen. Down below are the King's Buildings (begun 1920) which house the principal science departments of Edinburgh University.

From the Observatory either return to Morningside via Cluny Gardens or strike west and find the path down to the Hermitage of Braid. Here is an 18th-century house built for the father of Lady Stair; it is now owned by the city and used as a Scout hostel. Near the house is a capacious ice house decorated at the back with stone urns.

LEITH WALK TO MEADOWBANK

Start at Waterloo Place, finish at Portobello Road. 3 miles of street walks.

Leith Walk is so called because in the 18th century it was a gravel-covered causeway and no horses were allowed on it. It had been created almost accidentally as part of the unsuccessful defences against Cromwell in 1650 when a trench and mound were made for the left wing of General Leslie's cannon, the other wing being on Calton Hill. Previously the way from the port of Leith to Edinburgh had been by Easter Road and Abbeyhill up the Royal Mile. Such a broad thoroughfare attracted its own stallholders, and there were travelling shows, a waxworks and balladeers. Of course, there was good custom from sailors returning from months at sea. In the 19th century, with the growth of the New Town it became the site for speculative tenements but somehow retained its original breadth, with the wide pavements that today make it one of the most walkable parts of Edinburgh. Only Elm Row remains as a reminder that there was once open country between the city and the port.

At the traffic island opposite the Post Office in Princes Street there is a short stretch of rail with the groove where the cable ran for the early cable cars, this method being considered the most suitable for the steep gradients to the north. Unfortunately no specimens were preserved when the cable cars were scrapped in the 1920s; the

Transport Museum at the bus depot in Leith Walk has nothing to show of this vehicle, which was open at the top. The driver was also unprotected from the weather.

Opposite the GPO is the controversial St James Centre. Unfortunately most of the old buildings have now been demolished. A further glimpse of the future is to be had at Picardy Place roundabout where the neon sculpture was erected in 1973. The tubes change colour according to the temperature of the air.

Below Broughton to Shrub Place the Walk is particularly broad, and this was a favourite spot for hanging criminals. Gallows Lee was found to be made of good building sand, so somebody moved in and sold it off by the cartload. At Pilrig Church (1862) was the boundary and this is commemorated in the name of the bar opposite. At the foot of the Walk is the statue of Queen Victoria, erected 65 years after her first visit. This area was once an open market. My own great-great-grandfather brought a sackful of shoes and boots here every Saturday morning and displayed them for sale on the ground, as did everyone else – even those selling fish or vegetables.

The continuation of Leith Walk is Constitution Street and the area between this street and the Water of Leith is the oldest part of the town. The first stone bridge was built in 1492 and the place has been bustling ever since. In the 16th century it suffered during the Rough Wooing and the oldest buildings date from after this.

Near the foot of Constitution Street on the left is Bernard Street (named after the innkeeper of the White Horse Inn which stood here in the 17th century) which leads to The Shore where there are buildings of historic interest, although no longer at the water's edge. At this point both Mary Queen of Scots in 1561 and George IV in 1822 came ashore; Mary had come straight from the French court and spoke with a French accent, whereas George appeared with silk tights under his kilt.

Behind No 57 The Shore is Andrew Lamb's House, a 17th-century mansion and warehouse. Now owned by the National Trust and used as a day centre for old people, it is four storeys high with the old pantiled roof and crow-stepped gables. Cross over the Water of Leith, noticing the Customs House (1812) on the right, and look for Dock Street on the left. This leads into Coburg Street where there is the old north Leith burial ground, containing sailors' headstones from the 17th century. Pass into Citadel Street by Cromwell Street, both so named because of the huge Leith Citadel built in 1656 when Cromwell's troops occupied the town.

Returning to Commercial Street look for the old gateway to John Rennie's Commercial Dock, now filled in. At the end of the 18th century the harbour was greatly enlarged, but in 1799 Rennie

started building a set of harbours with locks to keep a constant level. In building these much land was reclaimed.

Cross the swing bridge at Sandport Place and cut through to 87 Giles Street where there is another 17th-century house, known as Black Vaults. From here, via Duke Street, visit Leith Links where golf has been played since the days of Charles I, and then head south down Lochend Road to Lochend Park and visit the castle and its 16th-century doocot. Portobello Road is joined at Meadowbank Sports Centre, built in 1970 for the Royal Commonwealth Games. The way back is along London Road to Leith Walk, or along the edge of Holyrood Park to the Royal Mile.

BOTANIC GARDENS TO NEWHAVEN

Start and finish at St Andrew's Square. Road and path walking. 4 miles.

The mile-long walk down to the Royal Botanic Gardens would be twice as long for the student of town-planning. South of Queen Street Gardens lies the Second New Town, built in the early 19th century and containing the most imposing terraces. The inhabitants of the original New Town did not think much of the new developments and insisted on the 'green belt' of the gardens to ensure the newcomers kept their distance.

Going down Hanover Street, which becomes Dundas Street after passing the gardens, we come to Heriot Row where Stevenson lived until the more bohemian life of London lured him south. This street, as are Great King Street and Fettes Row, is designed to make an imposing sweep unifying the individual houses into a palatial exterior. At one end of Great King Street is W. H. Playfair's Royal Circus and at the other Drummond Place, in the middle of which stood a country house until 1844. Imposing as these streets look above ground, more practical problems were encountered below in the sewers where blockages were frequent due to awkward gradients.

The main entrance to the Botanic Gardens is in Inverleith Row, which is reached by going through Canonmills, named after the Augustines who were given the right to build mills on this part of the Water of Leith. Locals say that trout can be seen here in the early morning. This is the third site the Gardens have occupied. The first were started by James Sutherland in 1767 in the churchyard of Trinity College Church, where travellers brought specimens from

all over the world for cultivation. The grounds of Inverleith House were acquired in 1824.

The house was built in 1774 for just £4000 and was almost completely self-contained; the 60-acre estate included everything from a laundry to a slaughter-house. A history of the house can be obtained from the attendants; it is at present the city's Gallery of Modern Art and contains tea-room and toilets. A plan of the gardens is obtainable at the entrance and this will be a guide through the 16 sections into which it is divided. The Palm House, which has an audio guide is well worth a visit; there is also a cacti house and an Amazonian lily pond.

Returning to the main gates, continue along Inverleith Row and over Ferry Road into South Trinity Road which leads through Edwardian and Victorian terraces to the shore at Starbank Street. Going towards the harbour one notes the renovations to the original fishing village. A local tradition says that when a rowan tree dies, where the nets were hung up to dry, then Newhaven is finished as a fishing port. It was removed recently, but the area is starting a new lease of life as a residential area. It was from Newhaven 400 years ago that the *Great Michael* was launched to become the pride of James IV's navy.

Either continue along Commercial Street to Leith or turn down Newhaven Road to Victoria Park where a small 18th-century mansion is worth visiting. Continue over Bonnington Bridge where there are the preserved Bonnington Mills, mainly 18th-century. There is also Bonnyhaugh House, built in 1621. The bus can be taken up Broughton Road back to the New Town.

LAURISTON CASTLE AND CORSTORPHINE HILL

Start at George Street and finish at Princes Street. Road and path walking. 3 miles.

The 41 bus from George Street goes to the gates of the castle in Cramond Road. The attention is caught by a pair of winged sphinxes on the gate posts; one wonders why such legendary beasts never appear on modern public buildings.

Lauriston Castle, originally a 16th-century rectangular tower, has been altered in the last century to give a mock-Tudor appearance. It was left to the city in 1926 and contains a fine collection of furniture and tapestries; guides are available. Above the front entrance is another legendary creature – a mermaid complete with mirror and comb. There is also a small pond with miniature islands and trees in

the Japanese style. The grounds are a public park and contain a fine terrace with benches and garden urns. From here is a view down to Cramond and across the Forth to Fife.

Before leaving the grounds notice the baronial style Ladies toilet with its ornamental chimneys. Turn left back to Queensferry Road and turn right along Davidson's Main Park, containing the Royal High School, moved here in 1968 from the Calton Hill building. Where the houses end a notice indicates the footpath to Corstorphine Hill and Clermiston Tower. Once into the woods, keep to the path on the left for there are tracks through the trees for pony trekkers. On the left, through the trees, a glimpse may be had of Craigcrook Castle, a 17th-century keep once inhabited by the publisher Archibald Constable. He died shortly after the spectacular failure of his business and the Castle was occupied by Francis Jeffrey, editor of the *Edinburgh Review* who entertained many of the giants of 19th-century letters including Dickens and Tennyson.

The top of Corstorphine Hill (529 ft) is reached shortly after leaving the woods and crossing a boulder field, looking much as it must have been left after the Ice Ages. Clermiston Tower was built to commemorate the centenary of Scott's birth but is now boarded up; it was presented to the city in 1932 on the centenary of the writer's death. It was also near here that David Balfour parted from Alan Breck in *Kidnapped* to claim his inheritance.

The way down is obvious, but the walk can be rounded off by a visit to the zoo. For those who want to climb the hill only, take a 26 bus along Corstorphine Road to Clermiston Road where there is a path opposite Drum Brae Drive.

SOUTHSIDE SAUNTER TO CRAIGMILLAR

Start at the main PO, finish at Holyrood Park. Roads and path walking. 5 miles.

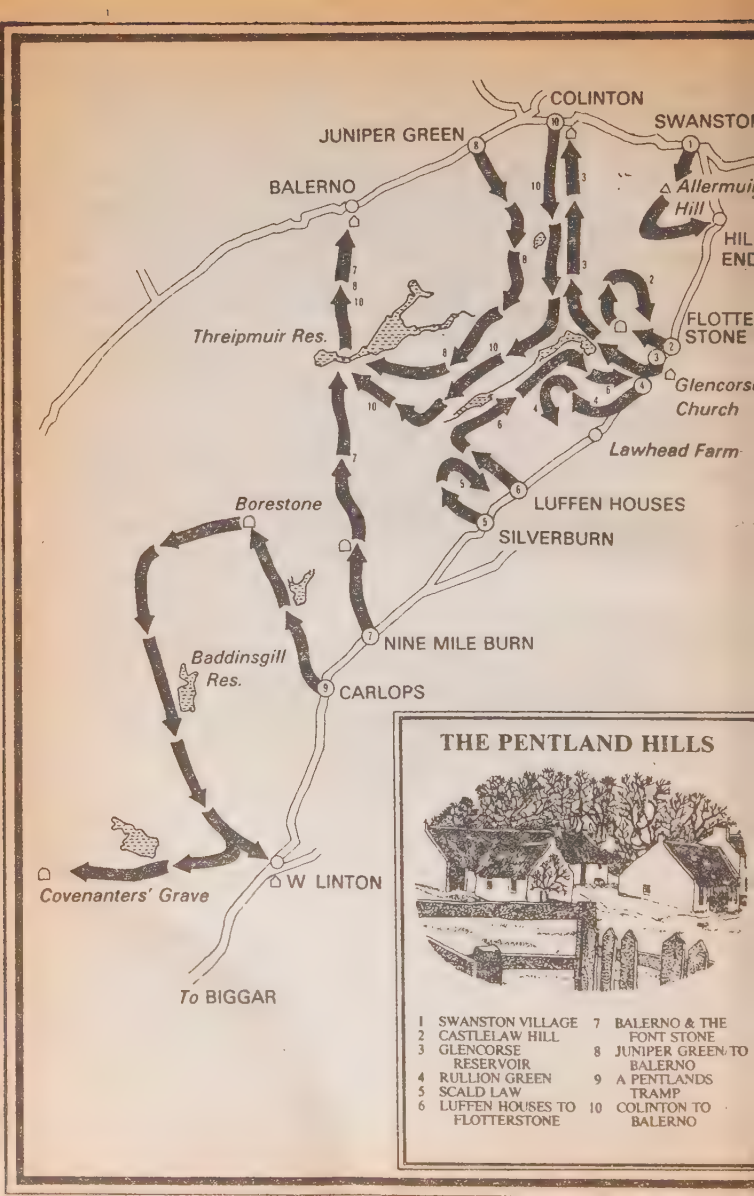
Our saunter begins with a walk over North Bridge and a look at the view of Salisbury Crags which make such a magnificent contrast to the city streets below. From this viewpoint the high-rise tenements of Cockburn Street can be fully appreciated, and the eye is led up to the renovated 17th-century 'land', tenement, (now student lodgings) at the top of the Mound, with the spire of St John's Church thrust up behind. Continue across the High Street (see *The Royal Mile*) and into Nicolson Street where lived Agnes Maclehose to whom Burns wrote *Ae Fond Kiss*. Nicolson Square, once private

gardens, gives an indication of how the South Side was once a fashionable area, now looking sadly threadbare. To the right lies George Square, named after the builder's brother and now occupied by Edinburgh University.

Turn off Newington Road up Salisbury Road into Dalkeith Road just by the Royal Commonwealth Pool, built for the 1970 Commonwealth Games. Around this are the Pollock Halls of Residence, originally two houses (1867–70) belonging to Thomas and William Nelson, the printers and publishers. One has on its roof a replica of the cottage in which the original Thomas Nelson was born. From here take the bus or walk the two miles to Craigmillar Castle Road, keeping in mind the line of an old song: 'The regimental uniform dazzled Jeenie's een and she hookit off ta Dalkeith wi'a sodger'.

The Castle, south of Craigmillar housing scheme (begun 1931), is one of the best-preserved examples of an early fortified house. Part of the structure, containing the great hall is 14th-century but additions were made in the next two centuries. The four towers of the curtain wall gave views in all directions of danger approaching. It was inside the castle that the plot was hatched to murder Lord Darnley; whilst in another room Mary Queen of Scots was still grieving for the murder of her servant Rizzio. Nowadays such things tend to be forgotten and the past is dead; but there are signs of a new life for the castle with the conversion of some rooms into an arts centre by the Craigmillar Festival Society.

Either return down Craigmillar Castle Road for the bus, noticing the cottages of Little France which housed Mary's French retainers, or head north to Duddingston Road and walk two miles through the Park to Holyrood Palace (see *Holyrood Park*).


COLINTON
SWANSTON
JUNIPER GREEN
BALERNO
Allermuir Hill
HIL
END
FLOTTE
STONE
Threipmuir Res.
Glencorse Church
Lawhead Farm
Borestone
LUFFEN HOUSES
SILVERBURN
NINE MILE BURN
Baddinsgill Res.
CARLOPS
W LINTON
Covenanters' Grave
To BIGGAR
THE PENTLAND HILLS
1 SWANSTON VILLAGE
2 CASTLELAW HILL
3 GLENCORSE RESERVOIR
4 RULLION GREEN
5 SCALD LAW
6 LUFFEN HOUSES TO FLOTTERSTONE
7 BALERNO & THE FONT STONE
8 JUNIPER GREEN TO BALERNO
9 A PENTLANDS TRAMP
10 COLINTON TO BALERNO

The Pentland Hills

THESE hills have been inhabited since the dawn of history, due to a ready supply of water and easily accessible vantage points. The earth house at Castlelaw Hill gives an idea of the way of life in those times. In the time of Robert the Bruce the area was used for royal stag hunts, then there was a time when sheep were grazed and a trade in wool and hides grew up. By the 16th century monastic records indicate that cattle grazing had ceased because of raiders. Between the East and West Cairn Hills there was an old drove road which passes through Cauldstaneslap Pass – a favourite place to waylay herds.

By the time of the enclosure acts the rights of way across the hills were disputed by proponents of the new agriculture. Early in the 19th century Glencorse Reservoir was formed, covering a pre-Reformation chapel, to give Edinburgh a source of fresh water, conveyed in lead pipes to the Castlehill. In R. L. Stevenson's boyhood the walk from the city to the Pentlands was still a long one, and within living memory Oxgangs Road and Hunter's Tryst were country tracks. When living at Swanston Cottage R.L.S. awoke to sounds that would be dear to him in far-away Samoa. Nowadays he would hear the crack of golf balls and the engines of cars bringing in parties to the ski slopes. The planned by-pass will further detract from the peace and contentment of the area.

However, these 10 rambles contain a variety of walks, climbs and moor-tracking. Only a few paths have been mentioned, for the map will show most of the drove roads and pilgrim ways (particularly Bartholomew's 1½" Pentland Hills map). Further information on the history and environment of the area is available from the Countryside Information Centre run by the Pentland Hills Ranger Service, at Hillend Park, on the A702 past Fairmilehead.

SWANSTON VILLAGE

Start at Colinton, finish at Hillend. 5 miles road and hill walking.
OS sheet 66

Take the No 4 bus to Oxgangs Road and alight at the turn-off to Swanston Village. The road leads up to the car park, beyond which is a collection of thatched, whitewashed cottages belonging to another world and nestling at the foot of Caerketton Hill (1550 ft). Its timelessness is presently threatened by the proposed by-pass from Bowbridge to Juniper Green.

Climb up the track to the top of the village where, beyond the seat dedicated to the writer Edwin Muir, is a gate leading up to an anchor-shaped wood. Devotees of R. L. Stevenson will probably want to see Swanston Cottage which lies north-west of the village behind a wall at the edge of the golf-course. Through the trees can be seen the house where Stevenson spent many of his summers 1867–80. It was built as part of the 18th-century scheme to link Swanston Water with Comiston. In 1830 it was enlarged by the Council, using gargoyles from St Giles' Kirk which was then being 'renovated'. They are now to be seen on the roof of the single-storey extension, just as described in *Picturesque Notes on Edinburgh*.

The easy climb on to the slopes of Allermuir Hill is obvious and from the top (1617 ft) there are fine views of the city's landmarks and the Fife coast; Threipmuir Reservoir lies to the west. Follow the contours of the hill east to Caerketton, avoiding the scree on the south face and look for a stile which gives access to the chairlift. From here there is a trail to the right which brings one past the remains of an Iron Age fort down to Hillend Park and the Rangers' Service information centre.

It is a journey back into literary history to cover this ground that so powerfully affected R.L.S.'s imagination. Locals rememberd him wandering the hills with a notebook and pencil, and he was to use the Pentlands as a background to *St Ives* and *Weir of Hermiston*. In his evocative essay *Pastoral* he describes John Todd the shepherd and the way of life in these hills 100 years ago.

CASTLELAW HILL FORT

Start at Flotterstone (235631), finish at Redford Road. 6 miles of hill walking. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Biggar bus from Edinburgh and alight at Flotterstone, marked on the map as PH, about two miles after Hillend park. Walk

up the road to Castlelaw Farm; beyond this, at the foot of Castlelaw Hill is the fort (229639). This is a small Iron Age defence made out of two concentric banks with ditches in between, in one of which there is an earth house.

To obtain a close look inside the Souterrain you will need to get the key to the gate from Crosshouse Farm (back door). There you can obtain also a history and plan. The key needs to be returned, of course, so keep your eyes peeled for another walker who might well be needing it. Having handed over key and plan, you can get on with the walk; otherwise a return trip to the farm is necessary.

The path to Dreghorn Mains lies north from the fort over Castlelaw Hill and between Allermuir and Capelaw Hill, alongside the Howden Burn, and then into a wood next to the army rifle range. The range is well marked by notices and a perimeter fence; a red flag indicates when it is in use. At the time of writing there is a proposal to move it to near Glencorse Reservoir, where there are at the moment night-firing ranges.

Now there is a good walk to stretch the legs, it should be completed in three hours from Castlelaw Hill (plus time for returning the key). Make for the Long Wood beside the rifle range and follow the tarmac road to the left around the edge of the security fence to Laverockdale House; from here there is a path leading to Redford Road. By the roadside is the Covenanters' Monument, built 1880 using columns from the facade of the 18th-century Royal Infirmary which stood near the South Bridge. More stones from the Infirmary will be seen on the Redford House lodge. It incorporates some of William Adam's scrollwork capitals known as The Drummond Scrolls after the Lord Provost who caused the Infirmary to be built. Walk to Colinton Road for buses into the city.

GLENCORSE RESERVOIR

Start at Crosshouse (A702), finish at Colinton. 5 miles road and track walking. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Biggar bus and alight at Crosshouse, just after Easter Howgate. Ignore the track to Bush House and take the minor road on the left leading over an old bridge to Glencorse House.

Nearby, up a short brae, is the old church, originally built in 1665. Although now roofless, the remains of the 19th-century weatherboard steeple can still be seen. The worn steps into the church, used by generations of plaided shepherds probably with their dogs, have been railed off to prevent further deterioration. The

churchyard was the scene of Stevenson's story *The Body-Snatcher* where he described it as 'out of call of human habitations, and buried fathom deep in the foliage of six cedar-trees'. The scene is now more desolate and saddening than in Stevenson's day.

Rejoin the A702 and turn left for Flotterstone Inn, marked as PH (235631) on the OS map. The inn is 200 years old and the name is believed to derive from a form of flat stone for descending from a carriage. The lounge is often busy with students from the nearby Agricultural College, there is also a restaurant. Follow the track up to Glencorse Reservoir, one of 13 reservoirs in the Pentlands which overall contribute four million gallons of water every day to the city's water supply. Some also act as compensation reservoirs to maintain a regular flow in the Water of Leith and other rivers used for industrial purposes. Glencorse was opened in 1822 but the masonry and ironwork around the waterman's cottage look untouched. The 13th-century ruins of St Catherine's Chapel, built by Sir William St Clair who inherited this land from Robert the Bruce, lie under the water.

Follow the track to the north corner of the reservoir. A path is signposted Currie & Balerno; take this but soon afterwards take the right fork which is 1½ hours' walk past Bonaly Reservoir into Colinton. Coming down through woodland you are confronted by the baronial mansion of Bonaly Tower, built for Lord Cockburn by W. H. Playfair who also built the neo-Classical art galleries in Princes Street. Take a bus back to the city from Woodhall Road or stroll around Colinton Dell by the Water of Leith.

RULLION GREEN

Start Flotterstone (235631), finish at Lawhead Farm (A702). 4 miles hillside walking. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Biggar bus and alight at Flotterstone Inn, marked as PH on the OS map. A road walk of ¾ mile will lead to the signpost up a track on the right to Rullion Green (219625). This leads past a farm of the same name and on to another called Turnhouse; from here descend towards a clump of trees and the monument to the Covenanters will be found within iron railings.

The original stone was placed here in 1738, but a new plaque was added in 1966 on the 300th anniversary of the battle. It was fought on a dull November afternoon when 900 Covenanters, many armed with farm implements, faced more than 3000 troops under the command of Tam Dalyell (see *The Binns and Blackness Castle*).

Many were slaughtered where they stood, but those captured were hung in front of their houses. Contrary to Dalyell's orders, some women and children were taken to Edinburgh and shot; digusted by the carnage carried out in the name of Charles II, he resigned his commission and retired to The Binns, never to reappear in public. 22 years later William and Mary came to the throne and by the Revolution Settlement of 1690 religious persecution by the State and 'The Killing Times' came to an end.

Head north-west to the top of Turnhouse Hill (1500 ft) for a fine view of the reservoirs and hills surrounding this watershed, and a panorama of the southern half of the Pentlands. Return to the A702 over fine grass to Lawhead Farm via the site of another Iron Age fort; a better example lies at Castlelaw (see *Castlelaw Hill Fort*). On Sunday afternoons buses run only every two hours, so consult timetables before setting out.

For those of a historical bent, the original National Covenant, drawn up on deerskin parchment and signed in Greyfriars Churchyard in 1638, can be seen at Huntly House Museum in the Canongate. Copies were sent to most of the major towns and cities for further signatures in defence of the 'true religion' of the Church of Scotland.

SCALD LAW

Start at Silverburn, finish at Kirk Road End (A702). 4 miles hill walking and scrambling. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Biggar bus and alight at Silverburn, 40 minutes from Edinburgh. Scald Law, just under 1900 feet, is best approached by South Black Hill. Although the gradients are not very steep, bear in mind that a fall of only a few feet on rough ground can be as damaging as a much greater one in deep snow or grass. It is therefore best to allow plenty of time and plan the route carefully, especially to avoid rushing for a bus from the hillside.

As the highest point in the Pentlands, Scald Law is visible from the Biggar road; to extend the walk by two-three miles you can start at Nine Mile Burn from where the way is marked with posts. This would make a full day's walk. Another alternative route is to cross north-east to Carnethy Hill, which is almost the same height and then continue down to Rullion Green and the Covenanters' monument (see *Rullion Green*) via Turnhouse Hill.

Crossing the saddle to Carnethy gives the walker the opportunity to study the way the landscape has been smoothed down by glacial

action or cut away by water when the ice melted. The shape of a river valley indicates whether it has come into being since the glaciers melted, having a sharp V-shape rather than a gentler U section. Informative leaflets on physical landscape, land use and wildlife in the Pentlands can be obtained from the Countryside Information Centre at Hillend Park.

LUFFEN HOUSES TO FLOTTERSTONE

Start at Kirk Road End (A702), finish at Flotterstone (235631). 2 miles hill walking and 5 miles of tracks. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Biggar bus from Edinburgh and look for a right of way signpost on the right just before Silverburn. On a week-end there are often cars parked in the lay-by for those who just want a short scramble on to the hills and back. Take the path leading between Scald Law and Carnethy Hill and over the saddle, which is about 1200 feet (although the road is over 900 ft). Coming over the saddle with a view opening up at your feet is always an experience. The Logan valley stretches away to the right to finish up at Glencorse Reservoir, and to the left lies the south-west part of the Pentlands.

Descending on to the more level ground, do not be tempted by a path which leads off to the right round the back of Carnethy; this goes only to Rullion Green. Keeping the burn on the left, continue to an isolated farmhouse called The Howe where a path leads along the north shore of Loganlea Reservoir. About halfway along is the Howlet's House, a 16th-century ruin, probably the priest's house for St Catherine's Chapel, which is now under water.

Alongside the Logan Burn the track becomes a road for the four miles or so back to Flotterstone. The view across Glencorse reservoir is continually changing and many people are thankful that no boats or water sports disturb the peacefulness of the scene. The reservoir contains about 367 million gallons after being raised seven feet in 1848; at the east end is a wooded island linked to the shore by a breakwater.

From Flotterstone a bus can be taken back to Edinburgh, or half an hour or so pleasantly whiled away at Glencorse Church (see *Glencorse Reservoir*).

BALERNO AND THE FONT STONE

Start at Carlops (A702), finish at Balerno. 7 miles hill walking. OS sheet 66

Take the Biggar bus from Edinburgh and alight at Nine Mile Burn (in fact 12½ miles from the city centre) or Carlops from where there is a farm road back to Nine Mile Burn. Look for a signpost indicating Balerno and Scald Law which is the path beside Monks Burn marked on the OS map. Ignoring other signs, turn sharp left across a field towards some woods; by keeping the burn in view you will come across the path after crossing some more fields. At last a stepping-stone stile will tell you that you are on the right track, and there is a notice warning that dogs should be kept on a lead.

The Font Stone (175593) is only about a mile from the road; you will come across it just as the Quarrel Burn reservoir goes out of sight. It is a lump of rock three feet high; as thoughtful people have pointed out it is unlikely that it was ever used as a baptismal font, since there is no trace of any chapel nearby. It is now believed that it was a base for fitting a wooden cross when a service was held out in the open.

Continue north to join another path beyond Cap Law, and from here the way is plain to a stile on the edge of woodland by Bavelaw Castle, which is a 19th-century hunting lodge. From here a long driveway with trees on either side slopes down to cross Threipmuir Reservoir (opened in 1847 and raised five feet in 1890 to contain 519 million gallons); this acts as a water supply and compensation reservoir.

The name Threipmuir is supposed to derive from a story that Sir William St Clair wagered his life that a white deer would be caught by his hounds and so he 'threeped' or encouraged them as they gave chase. From here there is a narrow road beside Red Moss Wildlife Reserve, a good example of raised bog, owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust, and down to Balerno past the SSPCA rest home for horses (visits by appointment). Originally a farming community, Balerno contains a number of spinning and paper mills on the Bavelaw Burn. The name is supposed to mean 'well-sheltered place'. There is a frequent bus service from the village back to Edinburgh.

JUNIPER GREEN TO BALERNO

Start Juniper Green, finish at Balerno. 8 miles path and hill walking. Map and compass essential. *OS sheet 66*

This walk takes in the hills north of Scald Law (1926ft), stretching down to the Logan Valley. From the bus terminus at Juniper Green (the juniper flower was the emblem of the Murray family) go up Torphin Road towards the golf-course and at the end of the fairways walk the north shore of Clubbiedean and Torduff Reservoirs. Here take a compass bearing on Harbour Hill; if an easy time is required, skirt to the right of it, cross the path to Balerno and make for the top of Bell's Hill (1331 ft). The best view of all is from Black Hill, used for grouse shooting in the autumn, (1636 ft) from which Scald Law, the highest point of the Pentlands (1898 ft) can be appreciated as well as the tops of East and West Kips. Looking north there is the view of the Ochils and the Lomond Hills; to the south the more rounded summits of the southern Pentlands more than four miles away.

From Black Hill head west towards woodlands and Bavelaw Castle from where there is a tree-lined driveway down to Threipmuir Reservoir and then on to Balerno (see *Balerno and the Font Stone*).

If the weather is not promising, another way to get from Juniper Green to Balerno is by following the Water of Leith Walkway, leading through Currie. For industrial archaeologists there is a wealth of places to visit. Papermaking was once an important local industry, and esparto grass was brought to the 10 paper mills on the Water of Leith from Granton Harbour. There are also examples of tanneries, distilleries, a saw mill, grain mills, fulling mills for finishing cloth and buildings connected with the old railway (a loop off the main line to Carstairs, including a viaduct at Slateford). An informative leaflet is obtainable from Edinburgh District Council Planning Dept.

A PENTLANDS TRAMP

Start at Carlops (A702), finish at Dolphinton. Fine hill walking terrain rising to 1200 feet in places. 14–16 miles.

OS sheets 65 & 72

This walk is longer than most but with a fairly early start it could be accomplished well within a day. It allows us to visit two places a little off the beaten track: the Covenanter's Grave and the Bore Stone. A map and compass will be found almost essential.

Take the Biggar bus to Carlops and follow the road up to the North Esk Reservoir. Before the waterman's house a track leads off to the left and this goes between Wether Law and Cock Rig, following the course of the Henshaw Burn. The Bore Stone (144599) lies to the left of the path at 1300 feet and is part of the bed rock. The name is a mystery, as there is no record of any reason for flying a standard at this point. One explanation suggests that this has been a favourite place for taking sightings for at least two centuries and was used as such by builders until recently.

From the Stone turn sharp south-west past the head of Henshaw Burn, skirting west past East Cairn Hill. An old drovers' road is reached; turn south towards Baddinsgill Reservoir about two miles away. Follow the road from the farm south for two miles to Medwyn House, where there is a road going off to the right, past the golf-course. After about 10 mins there is a short cut off to the right, but if this has been missed there is another right turn to North Slipperfield. From here it is a three-mile walk over the Medwin Water to a footpath from Garvald which leads to the top of Black Law (1335 ft); the Covenanter's Grave is beside the path. The memorial stone, erected in 1841, commemorates an unknown Covenanter whose body was carried to this spot after the battle of Rullion Green. One wonders why it took 175 years to place the stone here.

From here follow the path marked with posts to Dolphinton from where it is an hour's journey by bus to Edinburgh. If the weather threatens, turn south at Cauldstaneslap (1430 ft) before West Cairn Hill and follow the old drovers' road, marked with posts, to West Linton. This village is well worth visiting for the fine 17th-century gravestones in the churchyard; there is a bus service to Edinburgh.

COLINTON TO BALERNO

Start Colinton Road, finish at Balerno. Country roads and hill walks totalling 10 miles. *OS sheet 66*

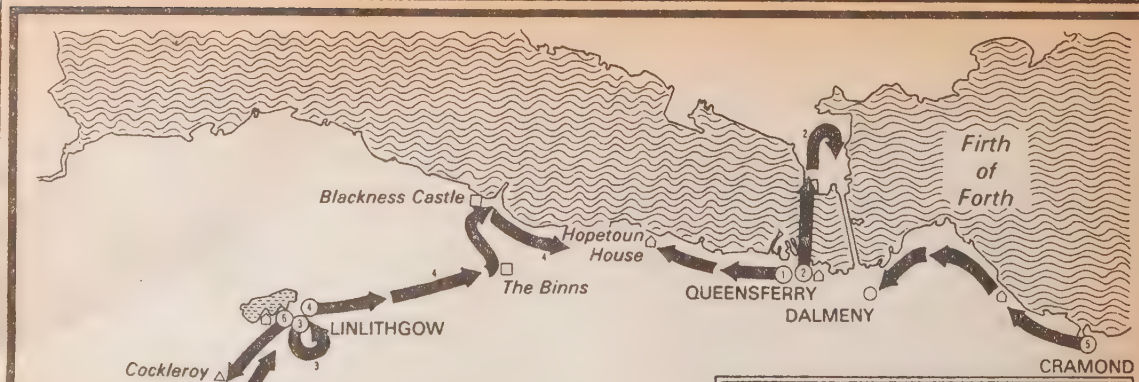
Take a Colinton bus from Princes Street but alight near the traffic lights before the bus descends into the village proper. Go up Woodhall Road, and then left up Bonaly Road through a wood, passing Bonaly Towers (see *Glencorse Reservoir*) to take the track which leads past Bonaly Reservoir. Looking back from here one sees miles of houses stretching over to Corstorphine and Cramond, but the skyline of central Edinburgh is hidden from view.

The grass track down to Glencorse can be heavy going in wet

weather; the hillside is also used for riding and this can confuse the path. Continue down to the road by Glencorse and turn right. Here there is three miles of easy and pleasant walking along Loganlea Reservoir to The Howe.

Where the track from Luffen Houses comes in from the left, go right and follow the meandering path, which is the meltwater outflow of Greencleuch Valley and tends to disappear beneath rock falls in places. Soon after passing the waterfalls you will have the reassuring sight of Threipmuir Reservoir to guide you. From here the way down is often very muddy, and the reservoir may be crossed through the wood at Bavelaw Castle, with its large clock facing the muir, or by the less imposing route by Easter Bavelaw. From here it is two miles down to Balerno, although a stop may be made at the Marchbank Hotel for refreshments (after the single track road across Red Moss Wildlife Reserve).

From Balerno there is a half-hourly bus service to Edinburgh. Depending on conditions, this walk should be completed within five hours.



THE FIRTH OF FORTH

1 HOPETOUN HOUSE
2 QUEENSFERRY AND THE FORTH BRIDGES
3 LINLITHGOW
4 THE BINNS AND BLACKNESS CASTLE
5 CRAMOND VILLAGE AND DALMENY
6 AROUND TORPHICHEN

The Firth of Forth

LIKE the Clyde estuary, the Firth of Forth did not come into existence until after the last ice age, when the narrow valley filled up as the ice melted. Almost all the land disappeared beneath the North Sea, the notable exceptions being the Isle of May and the Bass Rock. From the modern suspension bridge also can be seen Inchkeith with its lighthouse and the Cow and Calves – sometimes mistaken for a lightship off Cramond.

Westwards the scene is mainly industrial, and steamers pass by on their way to Grangemouth and Bo'ness. The Fife coast is dominated to the west by the chimney of Kincardine power station not always smoking as it is kept in readiness as a relief station. Directly north lies the naval dockyard at Rosyth, opened in 1903, which proved its worth when the surviving ships from the Battle of Jutland limped there for repairs.

There are numerous points of interest for the walker. The impressive pile of Hopetoun House, containing some of the best work by the Adam brothers, lies within easy reach of South Queensferry. There is also a shore walk taking in the resorts of Cramond and Dalmeny. A visit is made to the village of Torphichen to see a ruin connected with the Knights Templars and also some burial grounds used by the prehistoric Beaker people. The historic town of Linlithgow, with its Stuart palace on the shore of the loch, is worth visiting. From here it is an easy walk to Blackness Castle and the house of Tam Dalyell, the general who savaged the Covenanters at Rullion Green.

Once again the starting-points for all the walks are easily reached by bus or train from Edinburgh. Having seen the view from the top of Calton Hill, only a faint-heart would refrain from visiting the enchanting lands that lie between Edinburgh and the shores of the Forth.

HOPETOUN HOUSE

Start and finish at South Queensferry or take bus tour from Edinburgh during summer. Road walking. 6 miles. OS sheet 65

Take the Dunfermline or Bo'ness bus from Edinburgh to South Queensferry and explore the village. Follow the shore road west and Hopetoun House is soon reached. After walking up the long drive and paying for admission, the walker's thoughts might well turn in the direction of the tea-room. This was the ballroom, complete with tapestries and Adam fireplace. Guide books may be purchased or there is a conducted tour of the house.

The dedicated browser will be intrigued by the hunting photographs in the library. The deed room with its stone walls and roof is of particular interest, as is the 18th-century proposal to dig a tunnel under the Forth from Hopetoun to Fife. If you decide to go up on to the roof notice the width of the stairs and the lowness of each step – to make things easier for ladies dressed in crinolines. The view from the roof is disappointing in summer because landmarks to the south and west are obscured by trees, whilst to the east the bridges block the Forth estuary.

Some visitors are curious as to how many servants it would have taken to do all the cooking and cleaning in Hopetoun House. The wages book for the 1880s can be looked through by asking the attendant at the entrance. This does not show what the total staff would have been, but the wages ranged from a chambermaid at £9 pa to the head gardener who took home £120 – a position much sought after to judge from the number of applicants who had been with ducal households. Clearly the hierarchy and protocol were as rigidly enforced below stairs as in the magnificent state rooms above.

Behind the house is the deer park, which makes a pleasant hour's stroll. A visit could be made to Abercorn church with its elaborate pulpit and various carved stones. A two-mile walk to Blackness Castle (see *The Binns & Blackness Castle*) can be made either along the shore or by a path through the wood.

The way back to South Queensferry is by retracing your steps along the shore road.

QUEENSFERRY AND THE FORTH BRIDGES

Start and finish at South Queensferry. 3 miles road walking, not recommended in high winds. *OS sheet 65*

Once upon a time country relatives were taken to see all the sights when they came up to town. The original Forth Bridge was considered appropriate for a Victorian afternoon visit and this tradition has been continued by the mystery-bus-tour organisers. The hardbitten rambler is not always so enthusiastic about man's great achievements: there is one obvious disadvantage of a long bridge, especially since there is no longer a ferry. And the Forth road bridge, with a total length of $1^1/_2$ miles, is one of the longest cantilever bridges in Europe.

Starting at the south end, on a clear day it is possible to see Kincardine bridge beyond Grangemouth, the only other crossing of the Forth before Stirling. The elaborate structure of the nearby rail bridge can be inspected, bearing in mind the recent observation that 500 tons of steelwork could be taken away and the structure would still be safe. Safety was very much a consideration when building was started in 1880. Sir Thomas Bouch submitted the original plans, but his bridge over the Tay collapsed in 1879; so the job was given to Sir Benjamin Baker and Sir John Fowler. It is one mile 972 yards long, with each span 1710 feet wide; someone has calculated that 250 tons of paint are needed to give the complete structure a fresh coat. It was opened in 1890, and the road bridge 74 years later.

The walk across takes half an hour on a calm day. Return to South Queensferry and visit this village where travellers came to cross the Forth hundreds of years before a bridge was thought of. The 'Queen' is believed to refer to Margaret, wife of Malcolm Canmore, who travelled regularly from Edinburgh to Dunfermline, but the earliest buildings are 17th-century. The winding streets and glimpses of the sea at the foot of lanes remind one of Kirkwall in the Orkneys. Continue east to where the rail bridge comes ashore and find the Hawes Inn (1683) which inspired R. L. Stevenson to write a scene in *Kidnapped*; Scott had previously used it as a setting in *The Antiquary*.

LINLITHGOW

Start and finish at Linlithgow station. 3 miles road and paths.
OS sheet 65

There are regular train and bus services from Edinburgh and Falkirk. Before going down into the town turn left towards the canal bank where a large, stone doocot (dovecot) will be found. Doves were once an important way of supplementing a winter diet of salted meat and some doocots had nesting room for more than 500 birds.

Make for Linlithgow Palace, on the shore of the loch. There has been a royal home by the loch for nearly 700 years, since Edward I's invasion in 1301. The present structure was begun in the 15th century, when James I returned from his English prison, and completed by James V. Mary Queen of Scots was born here in 1542. It fell partly into ruin when James VI went to London, but was subsequently rebuilt. Charles I was the last monarch to spend a night there – unless one counts the visit by Charles Edward Stuart in 1745. A full history and architectural guide to the building is given in the HMSO booklet.

The visitor will notice the fine detail of the carving in the courtyard and on the fountain. On the east wall facing the loch can be seen slots for a drawbridge. Since it was used mainly as a hunting lodge, the gun points on the walls are an anachronism; even so, galleries round two sides of the building are partly cut out of the thickness of the walls.

The nearby St Michael's parish church is a 15th-century building. It was altered during the Reformation and then 'restored' early in the last century, when the oak-beam roof was replaced with a plaster ceiling and galleries installed. The old crown steeple was also replaced by an inverted-table style of tower, which was in vogue at the time. This was replaced in 1964 by the present canopy of bronze-tinted aluminium.

The loch supplied the palace with eels and perch and was extensively restocked by James II. A pleasant walk west along the shore gives good views of the town until the road is rejoined in the north-east corner. The grounds are kept in good condition and a tiny yacht marina is taking shape. Further west there are a number of mills built by the river Avon and a disused distillery by the railway. A pleasant walk can be made around the town; further information can be obtained from the Information Centre in the main street.

This walk can be extended by a visit to the Binns and Blackness Castle (see next ramble).

THE BINNS AND BLACKNESS CASTLE

Start and finish at Linlithgow. 8 miles flat country walking.
OS sheet 65

Take a local bus from Linlithgow to where the canal is crossed and go northwards along a country road which goes over the M9 motorway. These country roads are quite picturesque with their blooming hedges and dogroses and marguerites amongst the roadside vegetation. In the fields in high summer there are vistas of ripening wheat, while all around the view of distant hills is superb.

If the bus is unsuitable, take the main road north and turn east along the A904 until just after the turning to Mannerston a path is seen on the left. This leads to Binns Park and the house of Thomas Dalyell, who was a Scottish general with royalist sympathies. On Charles II's accession he was appointed Commander-in-Chief in Scotland and set about hunting the Covenanters, whom he defeated at Rullion Green in the Pentlands. The house, mainly 17th-century, resembles a child's turreted fort and the indented crosses are reminiscent of a crusader's castle. The interior of the house has some interesting plaster work in the ceiling (1612–30), which includes portraits of Dalyell's family.

For a small sum the walker can buy a guide to the nature trail. There is a picnic area in the grounds.

Refreshed by a snack, the walker can either cut across pasture land and, keeping to the fences, reach Blackness Castle in a few minutes, or take the longer road route which avoids doubtful cattle. The castle comprises a 15th-century strong, oblong tower with a circular staircase tower at the north-east corner. It contains a bottle dungeon where unfortunate Covenanters were imprisoned at the orders of General Dalyell. The entrance is sealed off by an ancient-looking yett which has withstood the salt breezes bravely. It is possible to see two small bolts for holding a smaller gate in front of the present one. On its rocky promontory this was one of the most important fortresses for guarding the Forth coast from marauders and it was one of only four castles left fortified after the Union.

The walk may be extended by taking the five-mile coast walk east to South Queensferry, or by returning along the B903 to the Linlithgow road.

CRAMOND VILLAGE AND DALMENY

Start Barnton and finish at Barnton or Dalmeny. 5 miles road and path walks. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Barnton bus and walk along Queensferry Road to the old Cramond bridge, where a path will be seen on the right beside the Almond. The walker is soon shut away in a stretch of woods which hides the western suburbs of the city. Although only minutes away from the centre of Edinburgh, many city-dwellers have not fully explored the delights of this part of the coast. The path winds pleasantly past an old mill and a weir and after about a mile one is aware of the whitewashed houses of Cramond, fronting on to the moorings at the mouth of the river. In places there are gardens rising steeply to a further row of houses reached by steps cut into the rock. Cramond is a village which has managed to retain its other-worldly character, whilst providing tea shops and other facilities for the 20th-century visitor.

From the shore it is still possible to make the half-mile walk to Cramond Island and back during the two hours of low tide. Part of the way is on a causeway built as a wartime defence boom against submarines, and a hazard to unwary yachtsmen today.

For those wanting a bracing walk along the shore take the path past the tower and return to the city via Granton harbour. To visit Dalmeny estate there is a ferry boat across the Almond. In the estate there are about 10 miles of paths and roadways to explore, leading through woods to the home farm and a golf-course. Look first on the foreshore for Eagle Rock, supposed to have been carved in imitation of a Roman standard. Although near the site of a Roman fort, it is unlikely to be of Roman origin.

Much of the foreshore can be walked, except in the vicinity of Barnbougle Castle (1882) built as a place for lavish entertaining. There is also Mons Hill which has an elevation of just over 300 feet. Dalmeny House (1814–17, built by William Wilkins) is worth visiting; it is owned by the Rosebery family. Dalmeny church is a well-preserved Norman building and nearby is a carved stone coffin similar to one at Cambuskenneth.

The walk can be completed by continuing west to the rail bridge and taking the train from Dalmeny station, or by rejoining the Queensferry Road and taking the Edinburgh bus.

AROUND TORPHICHEN

Start and finish at Linlithgow. 10 miles minor roads and hill paths. Allow a full day for complete walk. *OS sheet 65*

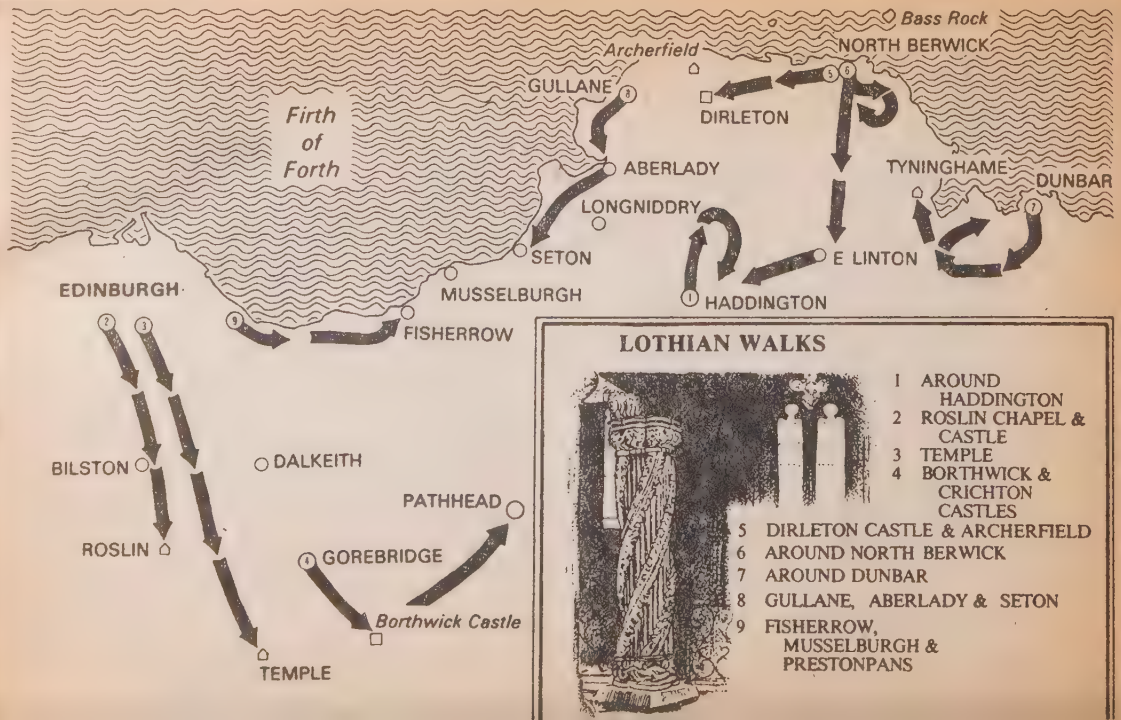
Within 20 minutes of leaving Waverley Station Linlithgow is reached. On leaving the station, make for the canal bank and walk west. A pipe across the path marks an underpass beneath the canal leading south past a golf-course on the right. Do not go as far as the farm of Williamcraigs, but bear left and, if the field is under cultivation, cross a dyke where a track will be found (not on map) leading south to trees and a spring. The walker is now directly below Cockleroy (900 ft). There is no direct path up the hill, but a series of zigzags which are easier on the pulse rate.

The main interest of the hill is its use as an ancient fort. A defensive ring of stones still exists except on the south side where steep cliffs make them unnecessary. The descent is by a path towards Beechcraigs Wood, but cut off to the right at the base of the hill and head over a field on to a farm road. This leads past Lochcote Reservoir and a ruined castle to join the road at Craigend.

From Craigend turn left into Torphichen where the main item of interest is the still impressive ruins of the Preceptory, a word deriving from *precept* in the sense of demand for rent rather than a divine instruction. This was the principal centre of the Knights Hospitallers in Scotland. The 15th-century tower and transepts remain. It is strange to think of the Knights of St John setting out from the Forth to go to their island castles in the Mediterranean. In the churchyard are to be found many ancient headstones and also a refuge stone with a pitted surface. Sanctuary would be granted to anyone who dwelt nearby, a custom deriving from the sacred grove of ancient Greece and the sanctity of church lands in Christian times.

Leave the village and at a telephone box turn left for Cathlawhill. Within 10–15 mins a track will be seen between trees on the right; this crosses over another road and approaches Cairnpapple from the south-west, cutting a mile off the road walk. The site was originally a monumental open-air temple in the form of a stone circle erected 1600 BC. Some time later Bronze Age cairns were built on top. An information sheet should be obtained from the wooden hut; at week-ends your visit will have to be arranged with the custodian at Torphichen Preceptory. The top of the hill is covered by a concrete shelter which protects the more interesting stones; the switch for the taped background talk is to be found behind the steps, and this gives a vivid picture of life on this spot 3500 years ago.

From Cairnpapple it is a 75-minute walk to Linlithgow station.



LOTHIAN WALKS

1 AROUND HADDINGTON
2 ROSLIN CHAPEL & CASTLE
3 TEMPLE
4 BORTHWICK & CRICHTON CASTLES
5 DIRLETON CASTLE & ARCHERFIELD
6 AROUND NORTH BERWICK
7 AROUND DUNBAR
8 GULLANE, ABERLADY & SETON
9 FISHERROW, MUSSELBURGH & PRESTONPANS

Lothian Walks

EAST Lothian's characteristic features are closely related to the area's quality as farming land. The original pattern of the 'farmtoun', consisting of the laird's house surrounded by rude hovels where the peasants lived and each cultivated his strip of land, was gradually changed by the agricultural improvements in the second half of the 18th century. Land was enclosed and soon individual farmers were wealthy enough to improve their dwellings beyond recognition. Farming villages in East Lothian are particularly rich in these prosperous-looking stone houses which create welcome landmarks in the flat landscape.

For those with an urge to stroll down country lanes this is ideal country, but remember that crossing fields with ripening crops is not going to make you popular with the local farmer. Spring sowing can also begin before the end of the year if the weather is mild, so late autumn is the best time to embark upon this variety of walking.

There are numerous buildings of historical interest, like Borthwick Castle (with its massive peel tower) to the ornamental delicacy of Rosslyn Chapel, while in Haddington is a town trail that takes in many notable buildings. In the churchyard is the grave of Jane Welsh Carlyle, and John Knox was born nearby. Ironically, Haddington parish church was defaced during the Reformation by those who took over-literally the words of Knox and men like him.

There are many coastal holiday resorts in this area. For variety some walks are included around towns like Dunbar and North Berwick, where it is still clearly to be seen, under the modern trappings of a tourist centre, how climate and situation dictate the townscape and the shape of individual buildings. The rambler who is interested in finding out historical and architectural background to buildings in the Lothians cannot do better than consult the first volume in the Penguin *Buildings of Scotland* series (1978).

AROUND HADDINGTON

Start and finish at Haddington. A leisurely architectural stroll of 1–2 miles. *OS sheet 66*

From St Andrew's Square take either the Berwick bus which arrives at Haddington in 50 mins or the more interesting route via Ormiston, Pencaitland and Gifford which takes 1½ hours. Those wanting to extend the walk should alight at Gifford, two miles before Haddington. The village was laid out in the 18th century, when most of the woodlands were also planted, and contains an attractive market square (see *Crib Law*).

The Gifford road brings the walker into the bottom end of Haddington. The normal approach is down the steep hill from the west into Court Street, dominated by William Adam's Town House (1748) situated in a triangle of streets. There is a map on the wall showing an architectural town trail which takes about three-quarters of an hour, and there are interesting spots down by the Sands close to the River Tyne. Here the first bowling green in Scotland was made, and further information can be found in the undercroft of the old doocot.

At the east end is the ruin of St Martin's, a Romanesque church. Returning to the town centre look for St Mary's Church, a 15th-century building partly used as the parish church. During the siege of Haddington in 1548 the church narrowly escaped destruction and the walls are still pitted with bullet marks. The town is considered one of the best preserved examples of 18th-century building in Scotland. Industrial archaeologists should visit the restored cornmill at Poldrate which now serves as an arts centre. To the north is the Hopetoun monument, erected to the Earl of Hopetoun in 1851 by 'grateful' tenantry – sure evidence of the prosperous state of agriculture at that time.

A short walk could be made to Stevenson Mains and Stevenson House, a largely unaltered example of a 16th-century grange built around a courtyard, to which there is a postbus service from Haddington PO about 1 pm. The house is private, but it is possible to visit the gardens by arrangement.

ROSLIN CHAPEL AND CASTLE

Start at Bilston and finish at Roslin. Path and road walking. 2–3 miles. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Penicuik bus from Edinburgh and alight at Bilston. Find a

path leading past Dryden Tower to Dryden Mains which joins the old railway line leading into Roslin. The Chapel is found down by the River North Esk on the east of the town. It is a 15th-century building and still used for worship. A handboard is available giving the history of the chapel and the intricately carved Prentice Pillar which looks too delicate to support the roof. The story is that the apprentice who designed and carved it was killed by the jealous master mason. Architectural historians surmise that the craftsmen were brought over from Spain, since there are similarities to work in Burgos. This is only a flawed fragment of a magnificent conception, but the profusion of carving draws many gasps of wonder. Some of the carved designs from the chapel were copied for the ceiling of Scott's library at Abbotsford.

Roslin Castle is reached by a road off to the right before the Chapel is reached. Unfortunately a notice on the bridge says it is closed for the meantime. Its original owner, Sir William St Clair, was killed in 1330 fighting the Moors; but little of this remains. Gen Monk destroyed much of the castle in 1650. A better idea of the layout can be obtained from the moat.

In the Royal Hotel there is an old open grate complete with blackened kettle. Not so many years ago it was considered a disgrace to have such an old-fashioned contrivance under one's roof, whereas now it is an object of curiosity to younger visitors. For the antiquarian's further delight he will find the word 'Lavatory' ornamentally etched in an old window door, but someone has thought it necessary to add a painted sign saying 'Gents'.

TEMPLE

Start and finish at Gorebridge, unless private transport. 5 miles road walking. *OS sheet 66*

Temple (587315) is set in hilly, wooded ground on the river South Esk 2½ miles south-west of Gorebridge. Take the Birkenside bus from Edinburgh. The village itself consists of one street and the ruined chapel of the Knights Templars. The original building has beautiful lancet windows and an early form of rose window still intact. It was used as the local church until 1832 when the present one was built.

It is intriguing that there should have been a direct link with the medieval world of the Crusades in this peaceful spot. The Knights Templars were originally French knights who founded a semi-

monastic order in the 12th century to maintain a free passage for pilgrims to the Holy Land. They belonged to the Benedictine order and were assigned a white mantle with a red cross on the left breast (to distinguish them from the Knights Hospitallers who had a black mantle with a white cross). Their standard was a red cross on a black and white striped background, called a *Beauseant* which was also their battle cry when fighting the infidels. Their vows were of poverty, chastity and obedience to the Grand Master; but by the 14th century the order was growing corrupt and was put down by Philip le Bel in France. The order was soon eradicated in the rest of Europe except for Portugal, where it took on the new name of Order of Christ; and their going marked the passing away of the Middle Ages.

Naturally there is no sign of these events at Temple except for the name. However, the graveyard provides more living history. One stone represents a man in 17th-century costume with two children; to one he shows affection, whilst the other appears to have been cut off without a shilling. On another stone a former minister has had his will carved: 'Bequest to the General Assembly's Education Scheme £100; to the Indian Mission £100; and the residue of his Estate amounting to £4000 sterling to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh under burden of a perpetual annuity of £5 to be given by the ministers and kirk session to the poor of the parish of Temple on Christmas Day.' This was in 1847, but the annuity is still administered. The new church is now a private house, but the village street is all one would expect of a place with such ancient connections – the cottages all very individual with their own walled gardens and pantiled roofs.

BORTHWICK AND CRICHTON CASTLES

Start at Crichton or Gorebridge, finish at Pathhead (A68). 6 miles of undulating country and minor roads. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Galashiels bus from Edinburgh to North Middleton from where Borthwick Castle is under a mile north-east. Alternatively take the Birkenside bus to Gorebridge and from there follow the old railway-cutting down to where it skirts the hamlet of Borthwick. The object of this ramble is to visit two very spectacular castles.

Borthwick has stood almost undisturbed for more than 500 years at the junction of Gore Water and North Middleton Burn. It is now occupied, having been untenanted for 150 years, but even Cromwell had little effect upon the walls which are 13 feet thick in places. It

vas here that Mary and Bothwell stayed a night on their flight from ne Confederate lords when the castle was surrounded by Morton nd his troops. Bothwell made his escape in the dark, but Mary, ressed as a page, rode off next morning to Dunbar. They had been narried scarcely a month.

For Crichton Castle head north-east towards the bridge over the ailway-cutting. A path leads towards its exposed position. It is asically a 14th-century tower house to which later outhouses have een added to form an enclosed courtyard. Some of these additions ere added (1581–91) by the Earl of Bothwell after a visit to Italy. his is particularly noticeable in the decorated arcades of the ourtyard. In *Marmion* the hero was detained here before the battle f Borough Moor; in his *Notes to Marmion* Scott says of Crichton: ew ruins in Scotland display so well the style and beauty of ancient astle architecture.' The castle is open to the public except on ridays (Oct-May) and there is a guide book.

The path leads north past the 15th-century parish church to join ne road at Crichton village, and from here it is a road walk of $1^1/_2$ iles to Pathhead.

IRLETON CASTLE AND ARCHERFIELD ESTATE

Start at North Berwick and finish at Dirleton. 5 miles coastal walks.
OS sheet 66

ake the bus or train to North Berwick and walk towards the olf-course by Carlekemp. Soon Yellowcraig Nature Trail is gnposted and it is possible to take to the beach. On the right are a umber of small islands under the protection of the RSPB to aintain the colonies of terns, eider duck and puffins. After the last ar miles of barbed wire were cleared away to open up nearly 100 res of Archerfield Estate and introduce the nature trail. There are any more paths than shown on the map; on the other hand there is pond that is not marked. It might be useful to have a compass to elp you emerge at the Dirleton side by Archerfield House; some ar s of the estate are private.

If there is no desire to spend an hour or so at Archerfield, from the ar park take the road which was once used for collecting seaweed om the shoreline. Dirleton itself retains its medieval plan, ontaining a triangular green, flanked by the church and school-ouse. The Castle stands in its own garden, but is in fact built on a olid rock outcrop from which the lower chambers and dungeon ave been excavated. The great Drum Tower is almost 700 years

old, and this is surrounded by a cluster of later buildings. It was the scene of the usual treachery and siege, but additionally there were burnings of witches here. The castle can be visited and there is a guide book.

In the castle gardens there is an early bowling green and some ancient yew trees, maybe originally planted for making bows. The bus back to Edinburgh can be caught in the village.

AROUND NORTH BERWICK

Start at North Berwick and finish at Haddington. 9 miles of road walking and climbs up the Laws. OS sheets 66 & 67

Take the train or bus to North Berwick, an ancient burgh which became a popular golfing and holiday resort last century. Most visitors make for the harbour where a few fishing boats are sandwiched between ranks of pleasure craft. Behind the open-air swimming pool are some ancient church ruins.

Go up Quality Street to The Lodge, converted by the National Trust into flats; through the gardens a footpath leads to the top of Berwick Law, volcanic core of 600 feet with a whalebone arch on the top. From here there is a fine view of the coastline and of the Bass Rock three miles offshore and home to an estimated 8000 gannets. (Contact the Information Centre about trips out to the rock.) The rambler now faces five miles of minor roads to reach East Linton and Preston Mill; there are few short cuts but it is flat country and should be covered in two hours.

East Linton is attractively positioned on the Tyne, its bridge being nearly 600 years old. It was a centre for grain milling and became prosperous in the 18th century when much of the town was built. Preston Mill is north-east on the road to Tyninghame and is said to be the oldest working water mill, having been restored by the National Trust and a bakery firm. Near the entrance are marks showing the height of past floods, a reminder that farming has always been a risky business. There is also a small agricultural museum.

Take the path leading directly to the farm with the quaintly archaic name of Phantassie. In the last century it belonged to the family of John Rennie (1761–1821) the great civil engineer who built harbours, dockyards and bridges. His most famous memorials were Waterloo Bridge and London Bridge, both now removed. On the way there is a doocot, reputedly Norman, which can be visited. Until root crops were introduced as winter cattle feed there was only

salted meat available for half the year; to provide a supply of fresh meat required a large number of birds and some doocots have room for 500–600.

Return through East Linton and take the footpath along the riverbank from the A1 road bridge. After a mile there is a bridge by the weir just opposite a ruined Castle. A farm road leads to the foot of Traprain Law; like Berwick Law and the Bass Rock this whale-backed outcrop was created by volcanic action. Reinforced by ditches and stockades it was a natural fortress until abandoned around the 11th century. In 1919 a vast treasure of silver plate was discovered here and is now exhibited in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. The return journey is to take the road past Stevenson Mains into Haddington where there are buses to Edinburgh.

If a shorter trip is preferred, go east out of North Berwick two miles to Tantallon Castle (featured in *Marmion*) then another two miles by road or across country to Whitekirk. The church here is surprisingly large, the reason being that pilgrimages were made here in the 15th century to sample the water of a holy well. The church was largely rebuilt in 1917, having been burnt down by suffragettes as a protest against the treatment of prisoners, surely a unique occurrence in the history of any church. On the hill above are the Abbot's Lodging and burial cists where skeletons were found in a squatting position. The way back to North Berwick is either by road or across fields.

AROUND DUNBAR

Start and finish at Dunbar. Minor road walks, 9–10 miles.
OS sheet 67

Arrive in Dunbar by bus or train from Edinburgh and in the High Street look for the 17th-century Town House, containing an information Centre. Also worth visiting is Lauderdale House, designed by Robert Adam, now a social centre overlooking the harbour; also the ruins of the castle, stones from which were used in building the 16th-century herring harbour. Notices warn of the danger of climbing on the castle ruins.

The road south passes a garage, once a horse mill; there is an account of how it worked. After half a mile take the turn to Spott which is reached after crossing the Spott Burn. Here the last witch south of the Forth was burnt in 1705. Continue for a mile to Spott Mill where a path leads off to the right. This leads through

Pressmennan Wood, a nature trail which belongs to the Forestry Commission and contains a refreshing preponderance of hardwoods. A leaflet is available to guide the walker, but the path is obvious and joins the road half a mile south of Stenton.

On the left is the Whittinghame Estate, now the grounds of a boys' school; there is a public road leading through a wooded chasm, but our way leads straight to the village of Stenton. Here some of the cottages show signs of the outside staircases which were common before 18th-century improvement. The church is 19th-century but nearby is the ruin of an older chapel whose tower was converted into a doocot. There is also the yard where fleeces were weighed in the days of the annual fair, when the flocks were brought down from the Lammermuirs.

Either return by field and road to Dunbar or head north to cross the A1 where it is joined by the Whitekirk road. The village of Tyninghame, an unspoilt example of an estate village built during the 18th century by the Earl of Haddington, should be visited. The estate is spread out in the landscaped acres surrounding Tyninghame House (enlarged 1829) and it shows how exposed moorland and bog were reclaimed by planting hedges and woods to create in-fields. 400 acres of woods, including a number of rides which also serve as fire breaks, were planted in 1705 to create Binning Wood. It was the first large-scale plantation in Scotland.

Go east from the village to visit a Norman church and medieval cross; the Celtic Church was established here by St Baldred, a monk from Lindisfarne. Rejoin the A1 and take the turn to Dunbar at the roundabout, passing through West Barns where, skirting the golf-course, there is a coast walk of geological interest.

GULLANE, ABERLADY AND SETON SANDS

Start at Gullane and finish at Longniddry. 7 miles flat coastal walking. *OS sheet 66*

Take the North Berwick bus to Gullane (60 minutes) and head across the West Links, one of the town's five golf-courses, to Gullane Bay. The most famous of these is Muirfield where the game has been played for more than 200 years, now a regular venue for the Open Championships. Spend some time inspecting the old Goose Green, near the bus stop, where new houses have been integrated with the original cottages.

At the east end of the Bay is a ruined chapel and from here there is a coastal walk along the dunes which in the 17th century engulfed

ne original village. Today there is a scheme to stabilise the sand by ying brushwood and planting marram grass; this is done mainly in ne winter, but visitors are requested to keep away from areas where ew dunes are being created. Around Gullane Point one reaches berlady Bay, which in 1952 was made the first local Nature eserve in Scotland. Due to increasing industrialisation, this is one f the few remaining refuges for wildfowl in the area. There is no iewing point and all the uninformed walker can see are a few hides.

Here it is necessary to strike inland and rejoin the main road by ala Law; this crosses the Mill Burn, passes the remains of a armelite Friary at Luffness, and leads into the main street of berlady with its whitewashed cottages. Until the 1850s this was the ort for Haddington, and remains of the maritime trade can be seen the end of Sea Wynd. The village is a delight to wander round, nd advantage should be taken of the tea shops. The mech- nically-minded should visit the Myreton Motor Museum 1½ iles to the south.

The way now leads north to the coastal path which passes the astle and follows the arc of the headland to Craigielaw Point. The ain road is rejoined at Gosford Estate. Gosford House was esigned by Robert Adam for the Earl of Wemyss and the grounds id out as parkland.

From Ferny Ness there are views up the Forth to the bridges, and dinburgh in the distance. Branch off the main road to follow the oast to Seton Sands where once again the battle is on with the ifting sand. All along this coast concrete defence blocks were laid uring the last war.

From here go south towards Seton Mains. This leads to the 4th-century Collegiate Church comprising a choir and transepts nd bearing an unusual broach tower. Foundations were also laid or the nave, but it was probably never built. The building is roofed ith stone slabs and it contains a mural recessed tomb with the figies of the 3rd Lord Seton and his wife. The collegiate undation apparently consisted of a provost, six prebendaries, a e k and two singing boys. Despite its nearness to the dual ar iageway it is a peaceful, well-wooded spot. The way back to ongniddry is via the coast road or a mile along the main road to the ation. There will probably be some time left to explore the garden wn of Longniddry while waiting for the train or bus back to dinburgh.

FISHERROW, MUSSELBURGH AND PRESTONPANS

Start at Joppa, finish at Cockenzie. 3 miles road walking.
OS sheet 66

Take the 26 bus from Waterloo Place to Joppa (see *Portobello to Duddingston*) and near the harbour leave the main road for Fisherrow. This is a self-contained community whose trading connections with the Netherlands go back to the Middle Ages; it considered itself quite independent of neighbouring Musselburgh. As the name implies, fishing became the main source of income, the wives going round with creels on their backs to sell the catch door to door. They wore a distinctive dress, as in Newhaven, and it was considered quite a sight to watch them treading the washing in a wooden tub with their skirts kilted up to expose their legs.

It does not take long to wander through Fisherrow. Notice the Flemish influence on some of the houses, and Rennie's bridge of 1807 over the River Esk. Looking out at low tide one can see the mussel beds which give the town its name; other traditional industries include brickmaking and twine manufacture. The wide High Street contains a 16th-century Tolbooth; also to be noticed is a monument to the Earl of Moray, the 14th-century Regent of Scotland, whose house was here until the 19th century. Opposite this is a very high pend or archway between two buildings and one wonders what the reason for it was.

Head towards the race course, where Cromwell camped his troops, and follow a path which leads alongside the mussel beds to Preston Grange which was extended by W. H. Playfair in 1830. Nearby there is a mining museum containing a huge beam engine which, until 1954, pumped 650 gallons of water from the bottom of the mine 800 feet below. The engine stands three storeys above ground and was brought up from Cornwall in 1874; at the moment it is being renovated but the aim is to have open days when it can be seen in motion.

Prestonpans is mostly recently built. 800 years ago the monks built pans which extracted salt from the sea water by evaporation. This was also the site of the famous battle when the Jacobites ignominiously defeated the English army under their general, Sir John Cope. A monument to the battle can be found at the roadside just past the railway station. Walk back towards the coast to see the power station at Cockenzie (1969) and the new fishing port at Seton, or take the bus back to Edinburgh.

FALKIRK & THE UNION CANAL

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4 FALKIRK & ROUGH CASTLE
5 TORWOOD BROCH
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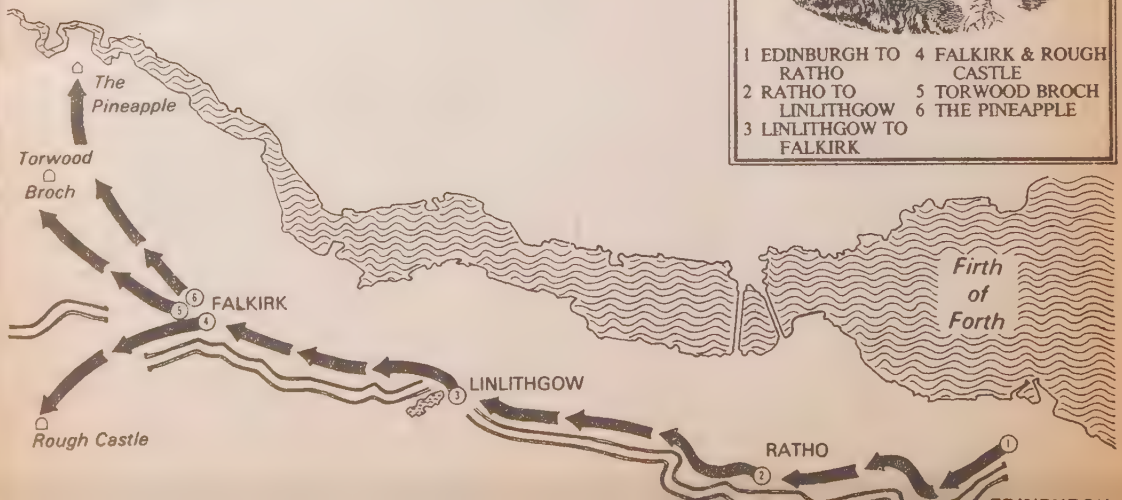


Falkirk and the Union Canal

FOR those interested in industrial archaeology canal walks provide instructive exercise. Being for the most part solidly-built, canals have survived surprisingly well for nearly 200 years, perhaps because they have not been used by commercial traffic in any volume for many years. The Union Canal has been officially closed since 1933. The Forth & Clyde Canal, ending at Grangemouth, had been completed in 1790, and the price of coal in Glasgow had dropped almost immediately. However, work did not begin on the Union until 1818 when the basins in the Tollcross district area of Edinburgh were started.

The new canal ran a length of nearly 32 miles to join the Forth & Clyde just south of Falkirk and was completed in four years – an astonishingly fast piece of work. The Union possesses only one quarter the number of locks of the Forth & Clyde, but has three great aqueducts as against only one over the Kelvin near Glasgow. Unfortunately the Union never made money, and so it was taken over by the newly-built Edinburgh & Glasgow Railway in 1849, the full story being told in Jean Lindsay's *The Canals of Scotland* (1968). A report came out in 1977 suggesting amenity uses for the Canal.

The track boats were considered a great novelty and offered cabins for passengers wanting to make the overnight journey from Edinburgh to Glasgow. The canal companies claimed that this mode of travel was far superior in comfort to the stage coach, and so it appears from contemporary verses:

Here passengers with cheerfulness may go
On board hereof, above deck or below . . .
For here a cabin in each end is found,
That doth with all conveniences abound;
One in the head, for ladies nine or ten,
Another in the stern, for gentlemen,
With fires and tables, seats to sit at ease,
That may regale themselves with what they please.

Brave days indeed!

EDINBURGH TO RATHO

7 miles. *OS sheet 66*

When the Canal was completed in 1822 there were three basins in the Fountainbridge area of Edinburgh. Port Hopetoun is now the site of the ABC cinema in Lothian Road, while Port Hamilton, behind Gardener's Crescent (off Morrison Street), has been filled in and is now derelict land. For the next 30 or 40 years these were busy places with vast amounts of stone and building materials being unloaded; at Port Hamilton there was also a coal depot, while at Port Hopetoun an open square, surrounded by offices and warehouses, was built where the passengers alighted. This thriving scene has now all gone. But behind Gilmore Place there is still Lochrin Basin, originally built for a distillery, now used by Scottish & Newcastle Brewery.

The best access point to the canal is at the bridge on Leamington Road and Gilmore Park, at the end of Fountainbridge. This was one of a number of drawbridges, raised by winding gear. Until Yeaman Place, where there is a proper towpath, the route is at the back of the tenements, and your way may be blocked by a steel gate; in which case return to the street and go round it. Soon Harrison Park and the University Athletics Grounds are reached.

Continue to Slateford aqueduct. This passes over the Water of Leith at a height of 75 feet and gives a bird's eye view of Colinton Dell and Craiglockhart with the towers of Craig House asylum, where both Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen came for treatment during World War I. All three aqueducts on the Canal were built at the same time; the engineer was Hugh Baird, but Telford's advice was also sought because of his experiences in Wales. The Slateford aqueduct was considered particularly strong, but the structural improvements cost the Canal Co so much that they had to raise extra capital before the opening in 1818.

At Kingsknowe Road the water is piped underground for 1½ miles, but the path continues to rejoin the Canal at a roundabout. There is now an extended Z-bend following the contours, and soon the path becomes overgrown with foliage. Another setback is the rough state of the path in places where dredgers have been at work, but this improves with time.

Ratho will be reached after two-three hours of walking, latterly across open country with views of Corstorphine Hill to the north. There is an inn by the bridge, with a small quay from which a restaurant boat leaves on summer evenings. Climb up the hill to the attractively laid-out village from which there are regular buses back to the city.

RATHO TO LINLITHGOW

15 miles. *OS sheet 65*

Take the Ratho bus and alight at Ratho village. Continue through the village towards Ratho Station and look for the Bridge Inn.

In this stretch the walker will fully appreciate what is meant by a contour cut. There are no lock gates until Port Maxwell, beyond Falkirk, but instead the Canal follows a wandering, river-like course, criss-crossed by hump-backed bridges. As a result there is six-seven hours walking. Ratho is soon left behind, and within a mile the M8 approaches quite close. Soon afterwards the River Almond is reached and the picturesque aqueduct which bears its name; it consists of five piers supporting an iron trough and it is still sound after more than 150 years. For a closer look scramble down to the river which is 76 feet below; sometimes it is necessary to do this because the iron gate on the tow-path is locked. To the north is the longest railway viaduct in Scotland, with 36 arches.

The motorway blocks the Canal half a mile further on, so it is advisable to leave at the next bridge and take a detour of about a mile past Muirend and Lookaboutye Farms, passing under the M8 to rejoin the towpath at Powflats. Broxburn is reached shortly afterwards, a town built on the extraction of shale oil. Passing through the town, the Canal skirts a number of the bings which are the main reminder of Scotland's first oil boom. At Uphall are the remains of the famous Pumpherston Oil Works where 700 men were employed in extracting paraffin from shale by heating it in iron retorts and then by distillation. This was the process invented by James 'Paraffin' Young (1811–83) who made a fortune from it. The bings are slowly being cleared, as the material is suitable for use as road bottoming. At Winchburgh is the village built for the miners.

Passing scenery which is at times reminiscent of the Arizona Desert, the towpath runs parallel with the railway cutting, and soon it is possible to cross a road bridge and follow the track to Niddry Castle, where Mary Queen of Scots spent the first night as a guest of Lord Seton after her escape from Lochleven (see *Kinross and Loch Leven*). Here is a good place to take a break and watch aircraft coming in to land at Edinburgh airport. To the south is Newliston House where the Earl of Stair is supposed to have laid out the 18th-century estate to represent troop positions at famous battles.

The second half of the walk is through open country and heathland, dotted with farmhouses and interesting ruins. 2½ miles from Winchburgh is Philpstoun, with the obelisk memorial to Gen Hope who fell in the Indian Mutiny of 1857–8. From here it is three miles beside the railway line into Linlithgow. Just by the railway

station is the Manse Basin where the local Canal Society run a passenger boat. There is also a museum giving the history of the Canal (open 2–5 pm Easter-September) with an audio-visual display.

LINLITHGOW-FALKIRK

8 miles. *OS sheet 65*

Take the train to Linlithgow station and join the Canal towpath at Manse Basin, after making a short detour to see an exceptionally large doocot, still in perfect state of preservation. The Canal Museum could also be visited if this were an afternoon walk.

Once clear of the town the route lies past a golf-course. The towpath is joined by the road to Armadale for half a mile and then tranquillity returns. To the right is Manuel House and the 12th-century ruins of Emmanuel Priory, founded by Malcolm Canmore. Shortly afterwards we cross the wooded gorge of the Avon, with the river nearly 90 feet below, on the most impressive of the Union aqueducts.

The route is now north-west back towards the railway line, past a number of brick kilns. The main alternative route proposed for the Canal was through the coalfield south of Falkirk and then into Glasgow, emerging in the centre of the city at the Broomielaw. If this route had been chosen the Canal would have enjoyed a much longer life and might well be in commercial use today; but certainly the walker and the industrial archaeologist would be the poorer.

We pass through Polmont and the steel spires of Grangemouth are seen to the north; on a clear day the Ochils will be viewed in the far distance and even a glimpse of the Pentlands. Soon the water is blocked by the B805, but it is easily rejoined for a stretch of two miles before reaching the tunnel. Soon we enter a cutting which rises on either side until the road to Glen Village crosses overhead; at the apex of the bridge are two faces like the masks of comedy and tragedy. Since they could only be seen from the Canal one wonders what significance they could have for boatmen or travellers.

The laird of Callendar Estate would not allow the Canal Company to traverse his land, so a tunnel had to be dug at enormous expense of time and effort. Later the railway met the same opposition and an even longer tunnel had to be dug, with the result that Callendar Park has maintained its isolation – and so has the town's main railway station. The tunnel is one-third of a mile in length; there is a

handrail, but it is useful to take a torch to show if anyone is coming the other way, and to inspect the roof of the tunnel, mostly natural rock but reinforced in places with brick. If you just want to get through as quickly as possible, it can be done in 10 minutes.

Falkirk High Station is at the far end, but the finish of the Canal is at Greenbank, another mile further on and past the first locks we have encountered. Here a road should be taken up the hill to inspect the monument (erected 1927) commemorating the second Battle of Falkirk (1746) but it omits to mention that Charles Edward Stuart won the day. General Hawley, in charge of the Hanoverians, retreated to Linlithgow where they set the palace alight.

Return to the station by a path behind the Monument leading to Glen Village. From this viewpoint on a clear day Ben Lomond, Ben Ledi and other peaks can be seen. The walk is likely to take three–four hours, depending on the state of the towpath.

FALKIRK AND ROUGH CASTLE

5 miles. *OS sheet 65*

Take the train to Grahamston Station for a walk round Falkirk. The town was once famous for monthly fairs to which horses and cattle were driven down from the Highlands and Western Isles. With the growth of the coalfields the town lost its agricultural connections and turned to iron-smelting and engineering. For a breath of the older town visit the parish church, rebuilt in 1811 on the original 11th-century site. It was through the original description 'faw (spotted) kirk' that the town got its name. The graveyard contains headstones of some who fell at the second Battle of Falkirk in 1746. The inside of the church has a central pulpit with the pews radiating outwards.

Another church, which has not been so well maintained, is the octagonal Tattie Kirk in Cow Wynd. It takes some finding, being in a back yard, but the iron chalice at the apex of the roof is visible from the street. On the way is further evidence of Falkirk's origin as a market town in such names as Bean Row and Lint Riggs.

The way to the Forth & Clyde Canal and Rough Castle is north along the Camelon road for a mile until the distillery is seen with its wooden vats visible from the road. There is a sign-posted walk along the canal up through a series of locks, the surroundings having been pleasantly landscaped. The route passes beside the district of Camelon where you cross by a swing bridge to the site of Port Downie. This made a link with the Union Canal at Port Maxwell

(now Greenbank); it was filled in when the Union was closed in 1933.

For those who only want to visit Rough Castle, travel to the High station and take the path from Glen Village to the monument (see *Linlithgow to Falkirk*) and down past Greenbank, going under the railway line to visit the site of a small fort. From here follow the B816 west until the signpost is reached.

Rough Castle, first excavated in 1903, is the most notable fort on the Antonine Wall. The site covers about an acre adjoining a ravine, and as well as the usual double ditches there are defensive pits. The Antonine Wall has been dated 142 AD, which means it was built about 20 years after Hadrian's Wall when Agricola's plans to conquer Scotland had been abandoned. Unlike Hadrian's Wall this was built of turf on a stone foundation about 14 feet wide with a 12 feet ditch to the north, from which earth was used for an outer rampart. To the south was the Military Way linking the forts, placed every two miles from Bridgeness on the Forth to Old Kilpatrick on the Clyde. From this point the Forth & Clyde Canal follows closely the line of the Wall, often using material from the rampart. The forts were built at the highest points so that signals could be passed from one to the other, and sometimes signalling platforms were built adjacent to the Wall. The next fort west from Rough Castle is Seabegs, but to the east are the remains of a large fort north of Camelon – associated by some with King Arthur because of the similarity to the name Camelot.

A number of carved distance stones have been discovered, recording in Roman paces the length of the stretch of wall constructed by each legion. Most are in the Hunterian Museum at the University of Glasgow, but the large Bridgeness stone is in the Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh. Most of the 20 forts excavated had civil settlements annexed where wives and children lived; at Rough Castle this lies east of the fort. To the west is a stretch of the Wall's stone foundations; whilst inspecting this it is perhaps comforting to know that our forebears sometimes slipped across the Forth or the Clyde at low tide, making all this Roman effort ineffective. Attacks were made on the Wall and it was damaged at least once; evidence from coins suggest it was abandoned around 180 AD, about 15 years before Hadrian's Wall was destroyed.

To return either retrace your steps to Falkirk High station or continue west to Bonnybridge where there are buses to Edinburgh.

TORWOOD BROCH

Start and finish at Larbert. 7 miles of field-walking with some roads.
OS sheet 65

Larbert is well served by trains. From the station take Muirhead Road to the A876 past houses and small factories. Larbert and Stenhousemuir developed around the Carron ironworks where coke-smelting was started in 1760; in the 19th century engineering works grew up around the smelters and the company became one of the largest producers of iron and steel in Britain. A special basin was made on the Forth & Clyde Canal at Bainsford for the Carron Iron Co's use; now many of the 19th-century buildings have been demolished, although there is a small open-air museum showing the cast-iron cylinder made for Watt's first practicable steam engine.

From the roundabout at North Broomage follow the A9 north for half a mile and turn left up an unfenced road towards Tod Hill which is crossed by pylons. When the track peters out head north over grassland to a ruined castle on the edge of Tor Wood. There is sometimes a caretaker in the castle who can provide information. The wood is fairly impenetrable, so look for a forestry road leading downhill on the right; from here a well-marked track on the left leads to the broch (835849), which is one of the best preserved in the south of Scotland.

It is assumed that brochs were built in the post-Roman era since many lie near to Roman roads but are never mentioned in despatches. One of their mysteries is the almost identical shape and size of structures scattered all over Scotland from the Shetlands and Caithness down to Galloway. They were generally 40 feet high with an entrance of 4 feet 6 inches, being used rather as an African kraal in cases of temporary emergency when the attackers could not afford a siege. It is not clear just who the attackers might have been, although it is assumed they were seafarers.

The Roman Road is difficult to see because of the trees. Return to the path and follow it to the right, skirting the wood and, within a mile, reaching another at a T-junction. Turn left here through a wood by Kirkland Farm and take the field road which goes through another wood and over the M876. From here the B905 can be taken to the station 1½ miles away, with perhaps a short detour to Larbert House and gardens.

THE PINEAPPLE

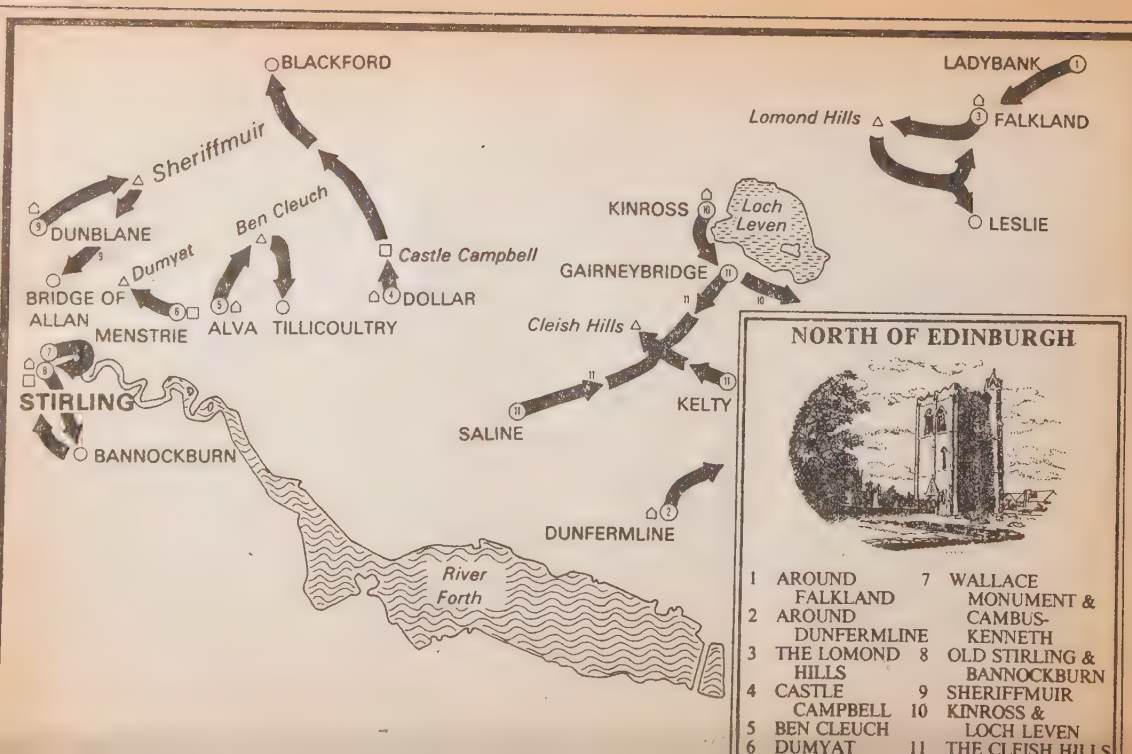
Start Falkirk, finish at Kincardine Bridge. 10 miles mainly road walking. *OS sheet 65*

Falkirk is well served with buses and trains; you will save yourself a walk through the town if you take a train to the Grahamston Station. Head north along the main road through Grahamston; the name comes from Sir John Graham who was killed fighting for Wallace at the First Battle of Falkirk in 1298, the battlefield being partly covered by this suburb. Cross the closing stretch of the Forth & Clyde Canal, and half a mile further on cross the River Carron. Even in the most built-up areas there is usually something of interest, and the Carron Ironworks will be well-known to the industrial archaeologist (see *Torwood Broch*).

Take the B9036 through Carronshore, turn right at the A876 to the roundabout and continue through Letham until the village of Airth is reached. Until the mid-18th century this was a thriving port and a royal dockyard. Some of the buildings near the foreshore betoken more stirring days long past; but the back road from Letham passes the ruin of Wallace's Tower by the Airth Castle Hotel and comes into Airth by the old village cross. Continue along this road over the B9124 to come out by the entrance to Dunmore Park, the site of the Pineapple.

The ornate masonry of the roof will be seen above the trees, and by following a track through the woods the brick and masonry boundary wall will be found; continue on to find the wicket gate. This amazing stone pineapple, 40 feet high, was built as a summer house in 1761. The architect is unknown, but a certain James Justice of Pathhead was growing pineapples around this time and it is assumed there is a connection. The display in the arbour describes the 'hot-bed' method used for cultivating the tropical fruit. The building has recently been restored by the National Trust and is let as holiday cottages.

After exploring Dunmore Park, part of which is private, and finding a ruined castle with a danger notice on it, a visit could be made to Dunmore village with its bowling green. Retrace your steps to Airth and take the Shore Road to the water's edge. Here there is an embankment which may be walked for just over a mile beside the Forth. It ends near the overhead power cables from Kincardine power station, and a track leads back to a minor road which crosses the Pow Burn. Back on the A878, either take the bus back to Falkirk or continue over Kincardine Bridge. From the fishing port of Kincardine there is a 30-minute bus journey to Dunfermline via the delightful village of Culross with its tiny 17th-century palace.



NORTH OF EDINBURGH

1	AROUND FALKLAND	7	WALLACE MONUMENT & CAMBUS-KENNETH
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North of Edinburgh

THE River Forth, having started life near Ben Lomond, winds south-east for over a hundred miles before reaching the North Sea. It is therefore still a geographical link between Edinburgh and the adjacent parts of Stirlingshire, a fact often overlooked. The winding valley of the river between Stirling and Alloa is 12½ miles long and is called the Links of Forth; the distance between these towns as the crow flies is less than half that length.

From the ramparts of Stirling Castle one is confronted by the range of the Ochil Hills with a number of points topping 2000 feet. Three walks are outlined in this section, but more route information can be obtained from the Countryside Ranger Service at the District Council Planning Dept, The Whins, Alloa. Shorter walks for stretching the legs may be made from the little towns of Alva, Dollar and Tillicoultry, while to the north of Stirling there is the Wallace Monument to investigate and further rambles from Bridge of Allan and the cathedral town of Dunblane.

Further east the rolling farmlands of Fife provide gentler walking territory. In Dunfermline, whose Pittencrieff Park can provide a good morning's exercise, there are a number of town walks. From Kirkcaldy, Falkland Palace can be visited, providing students of architecture with a feast of styles and a 16th-century tennis court. The Lomond Hills are an outstanding feature of the Fife landscape, and a visit should be made to the Bannock Stane to see unusual rock formations. Below them lies the sleepy village of Kinross by Loch Leven with its island castle, an angler's paradise.

An opportunity should also be taken to visit some of the fishing villages on the Fife coast. At Culross, in particular, sympathetic restoration of the old three-storey tenements by the National Trust for Scotland has shown how it is possible to live in peace and comfort without altering the original appearance of the buildings.

AROUND FALKLAND

Start at Ladybank, finish at Falkland. 5 miles road walking.
OS sheet 58

Ladybank can be reached by an hour's train ride from Edinburgh. This ancient little town was originally called Ladybog because of the amount of peats taken from the area. There is a minor road leading down to the surprising little village of Freuchie, containing attractive houses with red pantiles and outside stairs. It will be necessary to keep to the road because the Eden blocks all short cuts; however there is a view of the Lomond Hills which may tempt the energetic later in the day. This area was once covered with trees which were reputed to have been felled by Cromwell's troops.

Falkland will be reached in 1½ hours. The town lies in the shadow of East Lomond Hill and is considered one of the best-preserved 17th-century Auld Toons. It became a royal burgh in 1458 and the connections are still apparent in street names like Parliament Square and Rotten Row (Route du Roi). The town has an Information Centre opposite the palace and there is no shortage of hotels and tea-rooms. Here Robert Cameron was born in 1648, went to Holland and returned a zealous Presbyterian. His followers insisted on the strict fulfilment of the Solemn League and Covenant and the Cameronian Regiment was formed to help expel Charles II. In memory of the Killing Times the regiment used to attend church with sentries posted.

The palace, open to visitors March-October, was used mainly as a hunting lodge by the Stuarts. It became more substantial when extensions were added by James II and James V. The latter died here shortly after the rout of his army on the Solway and the news that his French wife Mary of Guise had given birth to a daughter; then he made the famous prophecy: 'It cam' wi a lass and 'twill gang wi a lass'. 'It' was the Scottish throne and the second lass was Mary Queen of Scots who was crowned Queen at the age of seven months and then taken to France. In the attractive grounds are also the Lang Butts where the courtiers could practise their archery. Cromwell's soldiers did their customary damage and the gatehouse was restored in the 19th century in baronial style.

A ramble of 2–3 hours could be taken on the Lomond Hills; otherwise take the bus over the Forth bridge back to Edinburgh.

AROUND DUNFERMLINE

Start and finish at Dunfermline. 5 miles road walking and a hill climb. *OS sheet 58*

It is an hour's train journey from Edinburgh to Dunfermline; if arriving by train alight at Dunfermline Lower, now the only station. From here turn left up the steep hill into this town which was the capital of Scotland for 200 years; the information office is at Glen Bridge car park. The name means 'the hill by the winding stream' and it was here in the 13th century that Queen Margaret built the first Scottish abbey. The foundations of this building were recently discovered under the present abbey of which the nave, with its great carved pillars, is the oldest part. Within the abbey grounds is the tomb of Robert the Bruce.

Nearby is the Stuart palace which was inhabited by James VI until he became James I of England in 1603; then he set out for London, to cross the Border only twice again. Charles II came here, however, to sign the humiliating Dunfermline Declaration which helped him eventually to gain the English throne. In the 19th century the town was known for handloom weaving and in one of the weavers' cottages Andrew Carnegie, the American steel magnate, was born; this is now a small museum. In 1902 his Trust made possible the conversion of Pittencrieff Park into a public park, designed by the town planner Patrick Geddes, with its flower gardens, greenhouses, music pavilion and the 17th-century Pittencrief House which is a local museum. In the town itself a swimming bath, concert hall, sports facilities, and a library were also provided.

For a country walk of two hours go north past the Town Loch towards Townhill Wood on the B912 and at Kingseat turn right to cross the M90. From here climb the Hill of Beath (786 ft), a volcanic mound, from which there is a view of a surprising number of lochs and the villages of the West Fife coalfield. Look for the White Elephant Inn which was a staging post on the Great North Road to Perth. From here it is a short walk into Cowdenbeath, a coal boom town, for a train back to Edinburgh.

THE LOMOND HILLS

Start and finish at Falkland or Leslie. 4–5 miles easy hill walking.
OS sheet 58

The Lomond Hills might be seen as a poor man's Pentlands, being much smaller in area and lower in height, but their similarity extends to lochs and wildlife, and a number of drove roads that are useful to the walker. The range has a sizeable peak at each end – West Lomond (1713 ft) and East Lomond (1471 ft) – which gain in stature from the flatness of the surrounding farmland.

Unfortunately access is not easy for those without their own cars: Falkland is an hour's bus journey from Kirkcaldy or a shorter train journey to Ladybank followed by a five-mile walk (see *Around Falkland*). From Falkland take the hill road signposted Leslie; after a short distance a gated track will be found on the left leading to Bluebrae Plantations. Once clear of the trees a way will easily be seen to the top of East Lomond where there are the outlines of an ancient fort. For West Lomond and a spectacular view, the path starts just to the right of the trees and it is two miles to the top. The Bannock Stane, sometimes known as the Bonnet Stone because of its curious shape, stands about 300 yards clear of Drumdreel Wood on a low escarpment and might be a suitable spot for a breather. From the top of West Lomond the Grampians can be seen on the horizon, while to the south is a stirring view across the Forth towards the Pentlands.

Head due south to Bishop Hill to see the rock formation known as John Knox's pulpit where, in the time of the Covenanters, open-air worship was held – a practice that is continued one August Sunday every year. This is a boulder dropped by a glacier and proof of the effects of glaciation in shaping these hills. Heading east past Ballo and Holl Reservoirs strike down towards the road; about two miles above Leslie there is a picnic area and car park from which a barred gate leads on to the hills. As you are now equidistant from Falkland and Leslie you may decide to head south. Although mainly an industrial town, Leslie has a fine stretch of village green with a Bull Stone to which the bull was tied in the days of bull-baiting. It is also the place where, when a boy, the economist Adam Smith was kidnapped by gypsies. From here there is a bus to Kirkcaldy, which takes 40 minutes.

CASTLE CAMPBELL

Start at Dollar, finish at Blackford or Dollar. 8–10 miles of undulating hills. *OS sheet 58*

From Stirling take the St Andrews bus which takes the A91 through the area known as the Hillfoots. Dollar is one of the Hillfoot towns and has some fine Victorian buildings around the Academy. There is a National Trust sign pointing up a glen to Castle Campbell. The walk follows the left bank of the Kelly Water and takes about half an hour. The castle consists of an oblong tower, built by the 1st Earl of Argyll, and added to in the 16th and 17th centuries. There is a history and guide, but seasoned ramblers may prefer just to breathe in the atmosphere. Scott refers to the Glen in his writing and would seem to exaggerate its gothic horrors, but we must remember that, as the dried-up mill lade shows, there is not as much water tumbling through Dollar Glen now. The name Dollar was believed to derive from the Latin *dolor* meaning sorrow; the map also shows Gloom Hill and Glen of Sorrow in the vicinity.

On a clear day the scene is far from doleful, and from the top of the glen tracks will be seen over the Ochils to the north and west. For those wanting to walk to Blackford, follow the path between Saddle and Hillfoot Hills to Maiden's Well and select an easy way up Whitewisp Hill (2117 ft). From here is a fine view south over the valley of the Devon, marking a geological fault, and west to Stirling and the Forth.

Cross to Tarmangie Hill (2037 ft), and descend north of Maddy Moss to pick up the path from Tillicoultry to Upper Glendevon Reservoir. This is wonderful heath-walking, as the Ochils are given over to sheep and are well-drained by many streams. Once the reservoir is reached, follow the path west until the River Devon is crossed by a bridge and the path to Blackford will be found going north. Soon a church spire gives a direction marker; the distance is about three miles over moorland. The walk should be completed from Castle Campbell in three hours, but some may prefer to linger for a fine view or a breather.

For those with less time or inclination, a short circular walk can be taken from halfway up Dollar Glen by heading north-west up Bank Hill from north of the golf-course. The view from the top (1128 ft) shows the main landmarks; head for the White Stone to the west below the Banks of Dollar. From here look for a place to cross the Burn of Sorrow, then head east to pick up the path from Glenquey Reservoir to the head of Dollar Glen.

BEN CLEUCH

Start at Alva, finish at Tillicoultry. 10–11 miles of strenuous walking and a climb. Allow 8 hours. *OS sheet 58*

Take the St Andrews bus from Stirling to Alva, a mill town at the foot of Alva Glen. Find a back street running parallel with the main road and from here a large mill will be seen beyond which is a footpath leading up Alva Glen. Keep east on a stiff climb over grazing ground to Silver Glen. The path continues east through a wood to Alva House, but we go north up Silver Glen by a track skirting Ben Ever. Here one can make a stiff pech to the top at just over 2000 feet or continue north-east past the head of the Glenwinner Burn; follow this water and where the ground levels off Ben Cleuch will be visible on the left. Before beginning the climb a sheltered spot should be found for a tea break.

At 2337 feet Ben Cleuch (903007) is the highest peak in the Ochils and in good visibility a wonderful view can be obtained over vast stretches of Scotland. There is an indicator on top which is sometimes twisted out of true, so use a map and compass to identify the peak of Dumyat, about five miles south-west. Edinburgh and the Lammermuirs should be plainly visible to the south-east; west over hazy patches of Lanarkshire the eye travels round to Tomtain (1487 ft) in the Kilsyth Hills, Ben Lomond (3192 ft) and the Perthshire giants. A patch of colour on the hillside is Crieff and in the haze beyond are Lochnagar (3786 ft) and the distant Cairngorms. Binoculars can help to distinguish points in the shifting patchwork of light and cloud.

The way is now east over a saddle and through one of the few peat hags in the Ochils. Follow a fence up Andrew Gannel Hill and make for Maddy Moss before which is the beginning of the valley path leading down to Tillicoultry. Once this has been found, it is a pleasant three miles to the town. As the hills open out the vastness of the Gannel Burn is appreciated, its glen steep-sided to the east and draining acres of grassy tops to the west. The spectacular gorge of the Diaglen Burn reminds some ramblers of a Landseer painting, and there are opportunities for a refreshing drink for the more practically-minded.

To continue the circuit to Alva cut off to the right after the old quarry and skirt the golf-course to meet the path going west past Alva House for two more miles into Alva where the walk started. For a much shorter walk, Alva Glen should be followed to a point where there is an easy climb to the top of The Nebit (1437 ft) with views down both glens.

DUMYAT

Start and finish at Menstrie. 5 miles of tracks and a stiff climb.
OS sheet 58

tarting the walk from Stirling adds eight miles to the round trip. rom Bridge of Allan drivers may approach from a road passing orth of the University to Airthrey Castle and a car park. The alker relying on public transport should take the St Andrews bus om Stirling and alight at Menstrie. The path begins at Stratton ouse, at the top of the village past a Scout Group hut which is lso the Mountain Rescue HQ. There is no signpost, but is a ath well-trodden by generations of walkers from Glasgow and dinburgh.

As with most Ochils walks the initial climb is steep, up the side of ne Menstrie Burn, but levels off at about 500 feet. Soon the Water oard building will be seen and the land-rover track leads off to the ght to Lossburn Reservoir. Follow this and after about a mile look or a route up Dumyat (pronounced 'Dum-my-at'); the climb will ake about 30 minutes, from the top (1373 ft) is a fine view of Stirling nd the Forth. There is a commemorative plaque for the Argyll and utherland Highlanders (disbanded in 1967) and a brazier used uring the Queen's Jubilee. This custom of lighting fires on the top f notable hills goes back to the Celtic May-Day or Beltane rituals hen sheep were driven through the fire and human sacrifices may ave been made to appease the gods who brought the return of light nd warmth.

The way now leads north along the ridge and descends to rejoin ne track to Lossburn Reservoir. Make for the dam and follow a uddy track beside the left bank of the Loss Burn. Passing a large olly tree and a ruined farm, cross a field and follow the fence which escends to the burn by a small footbridge where the burn can be rossed. Here a field track is followed leading back to the land-rover ack.

Whilst you are waiting for a bus, Menstrie Castle may be visited. is the birthplace of Sir William Alexander, who founded Nova cotia (see *Old Stirling and Bannockburn*), and it has been converted to flats by the National Trust, but there is also a small museum hich is sometimes open.

WALLACE MONUMENT AND CAMBUSKENNETH

Start and finish at Stirling. 7 miles of road walking and short climb.
OS sheet 57

It is worthwhile lingering for a few minutes at Stirling railway station, if one has arrived there. It has the unhurried look of a country station and is delightfully clean and airy, with a fine display of potted plants by the entrance. Pausing to admire the ticket office (similar to those at Waverley which have been demolished) and the frontage, one may be surprised to note that the station was not built until 1913 and bears a preservation order.

Turn right up Barnton Street and after passing the baths go through a pop-art underpass, decorated by local schools, then right into Wallace Street. This leads to another underpass where a left turn brings you to the old bridge, built over the Forth 1410–15 and still largely as it was then, although one arch was replaced after it had been blown up to prevent Bonny Prince Charlie entering the town. It is now a half hour's walk to the Wallace Monument, erected on Abbey Craig (1861–9) to commemorate Sir William Wallace and his victories during the Wars of Independence. It is 220 feet high and is supposed to represent a barbed lance; there is a small museum inside and a view of Stirling from the top.

For Cambuskenneth Abbey retrace your steps to the main road and look for the sign. Situated on the Links of Forth, the tower of this 12th-century monastery still stands where Robert the Bruce held his parliament in 1326 when the Pope recognised his claim to the throne of Scotland. The ruins of the abbey may be visited, but the tower is closed during the winter; in the grounds are some interesting stone coffins and crusaders' headstones. James III and Margaret of Denmark are buried here.

Return to the tower over the old bridge and reflect that for 400 years this was the main route between the Highlands and the Lowlands. The river was also important for the salmon fishing which provided a good trade in salted fish to London and the continent.

OLD STIRLING AND BANNOCKBURN

Start and finish at Stirling. 8–9 miles street and road walks, except for Bannockburn. *OS sheet 57*

From the railway station turn left and visit the new Thistle shopping centre to have a look at the frieze representing 21 traditional craft

and trades practised in old Stirling. For more information there is an Information Centre in Dumbarton Road just off Port Street. Our way up to the Castle is to take the Back Walk to the left off Port Street. This follows the course of the 16th-century town wall and comes out by Cowane's Hospital and the Church of the Holy Rude. The Hospital, now known as the Guildhall, was built as an almshouse (1634–9) by Sir John Cowane whose statue appears hat in hand above the entrance. Around the church are some interesting gravestones, some bearing the craft guild signs; in 1606 the plague reached Stirling and about a quarter of the population died. Beyond the church is Mar's Wark, a 16th-century building with a wrought-iron gate built for the Earl of Mar, the Governor of Stirling Castle. Built on the plan of a small courtyard castle, it was once ornamented with statuettes. It was taken over by the town in the 18th century but at present is not open to the public. On the right is Argyll's Lodging, a house with pinnacled turrets built for Sir William Alexander; in 1633 he became Earl of Stirling. Over the main entrance is a carved panel of his coat of arms; on either side of the shield is a red indian and a mermaid, whilst above is a beaver. The explanation for these unusual heraldic figures is that in 1621 Sir William had obtained a royal charter to colonise Nova Scotia.

Past the Portcullis Hotel is the Landmark Centre, once a gatehouse for the castle. Here there is a 25 minute audio-visual history of the Castle and the town and a convincing reconstruction of a street in the Old Town. There is also an informative guide book on sale. Inside the Castle a guide provides all the history; amongst the paintings there is a well-known picture of The Thin Red Line and also remarkable is an unclad figure amongst the statues on the south front of the Royal Palace. Below the palace is Queen Anne's Garden. From here a French abbot apothecary was said to have tried an early aviation experiment by launching himself equipped with wings made from eagles' feathers, from the parapet. He was fortunate to survive. The view from the ramparts is very fine, with Ben Lomond to the west and the slopes of the Ochils to the north-east; to the south lies the field of Bannockburn three miles away, which is where our route lies.

Go down Castle Wynd into Broad Street past the Tolbooth (1703–5) and turn left down St Mary's Wynd, once part of the main thoroughfare through the town. An Act of Parliament had to be passed to prevent outside stairways being built and so increasing the congestion. Bannockburn is signposted and the road passes the old church of St Ninian, or rather its tower, as the remainder was burnt down during the '45 rising.

The field of Bannockburn is in the care of the National Trust for

Scotland, and there is a visitors' centre with an audio-visual representation of the battle. The equestrian statue of the Bruce was erected in 1964 on the 650th anniversary of this victory by 5500 men against Edward I's amy of 20,000. In the centre of the field was the Borestone which is where Bruce's standard was supposed to have stood during the battle. This seems unlikely, but no other explanation is more convincing; due to the attentions of souvenir hunters only a fragment is on display in the centre.

From the flagstaff look for a path leading west, taking you to the old bridge over the burn. This was part of the road from Stirling to Glasgow and an almost indecipherable stone informs today's wayfarer that the bridge was repaired in 1717. The route now is towards Polmasie Woods and a path over the motorway (not marked on the 1" map). From here a view is soon obtained across the Queen's Park, of the Castle, sitting on its volcanic crag. Before reaching Port Street look on the left over a side door for a carving of a cat stalking a bird.

The walk from the Castle out to Bannockburn and back should take no more than three hours allowing an extra 30 minutes for the slide presentation.

SHERIFFMUIR

Start at Dunblane, finish at Bridge of Allan. 12–14 miles mainly minor roads and some moorland. *OS sheet 57*

A short journey by train or bus from Stirling brings you to Dunblane, built on a steep slope leading down to the Allan Water. The main feature of interest is the 13th-century cathedral with a tower that is partly Norman; the nave was without a roof for 300 years and this was only rebuilt in 1892–5. Inside are medieval oak choir stalls and also the tomb of Margaret Drummond, James IV's mistress who was poisoned to ensure that he made a more politic marriage with 12-year-old Margaret Tudor. There is also a small museum (May-Sept) and a town guide obtainable from the Information Centre.

Returning to the roundabout, cross the A9 and take the road to Sheriffmuir, about an hour's walk during which the road rises to 900 feet. The monument (815020) was erected by the Clan Macrae Society 200 years after the battle that ended James Edward Stuart's attempt to oust George I from the throne. The battle lasted about 15 minutes and was inconclusive, the armies coming across each other

unexpectedly in the bad visibility. Although the Earl of Mar was left in possession of the field and the Hanoverians under the Duke of Argyll retreated to Dunblane, the revolt petered out shortly afterwards. James himself did not arrive from France until the end of 1715, with six attendants instead of the expected army.

Follow a path behind the monument and in less than 10 minutes after crossing a stile, there is a stone protected by an iron grid where the Jacobites gathered before the battle. Some say they sharpened their claymores here as well. Head back for the road and look into the 300-year-old Sheriffmuir Inn; although the interior is modern there is usually a log fire on a cold day.

Now take the road to Bridge of Allan, four miles away; on the left are the Ochils and there is little sign of civilisation apart from an indecipherable milestone. Just after the pylons cross the road, a road on the left leads to Airthrey Castle and the University of Stirling, opened in 1970; this adds two miles to the journey, but takes in at Blairlogie a ruined church with interesting 18th-century headstones.

Bridge of Allan originally consisted of a change house by the old bridge; it is worth taking a look at the 18th-century Inverallan Mill, now a gift shop. In Victorian times the town became a watering-place and the saline waters could be taken at The Well House on Westerton Hill; it still retains a respectable front. From here there is a regular bus service back to Stirling.

KINROSS AND LOCH LEVEN

Start at Kinross, finish at Ballingry. 10 miles minor roads and hill walk. *OS sheet 58*

From Dunfermline take the bus to Kinross, the county town of Kinross-shire which is as much water as land. Kinross House, a 17th-century mansion with ornamental gardens, lies on the shores of the loch and from here in summer there is a ferry out to the castle where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned and forced to abdicate in 1567. The loch is now used by anglers and also contains a bird sanctuary; when frozen over curling takes place here. The town is a pleasure to walk through, with narrow 18th-century streets containing houses showing Dutch influence; when pavements were laid they had to be narrow, sometimes only 18 inches wide. The old Mercat Cross, garlanded with a pair of jougs, has been moved into a garden, and the ornamental stone fountain has been moved from its original position in front of the Town House (1771).

Head south out of the town and, by-passing the saw mill, look fo the course of the old railway line to Cowdenbeath. If not planted over, this is the most direct route to the B9097 from which there is a scramble up to the top of Benarty Hill (1168 ft) where an old fort is marked on the map. From here there are panoramas of the Cleish Hills and the Lomonds with Loch Leven between them; there is also a sight of Kinross House and Loch Leven Castle if there has been no opportunity to make a visit. The castle was said to have been founded by a Pictish king in the 6th century, but one cannot imagine it looking anything like the 15th-century tower now there. The tower was entered by a low door halfway up the wall; Mary was imprisoned in the round turret, only 15 feet in diameter. 18-year-old Willie Douglas freed the Queen and rowed her to the mainland from where she went to Niddry Castle. The island is now larger than at that time due to drainage of the loch.

The way is east towards Dunmore and down a farm road to Ballingry where there are buses to Dunfermline, except on Sundays. There is a Sunday service from Kelty which can be reached across Lochore Country Park, recently reclaimed by removing and landscaping the old coal bings.

If you have a car, a visit should be made to Milnathort and Burleigh Castle, east of the village. This is a tower house built about 1500, and the key can be obtained from the farm opposite. Continue the drive round the loch to skirt the foot of Bishop Hill and the Lomond Hills.

THE CLEISH HILLS

Three routes: (1) Start at Ballingry Road End, finish at Gairneybridge, 7 miles; (2) Start and finish at Gairneybridge, 12 miles; (3) Start and finish at Saline, 4 miles. *OS sheet 58*

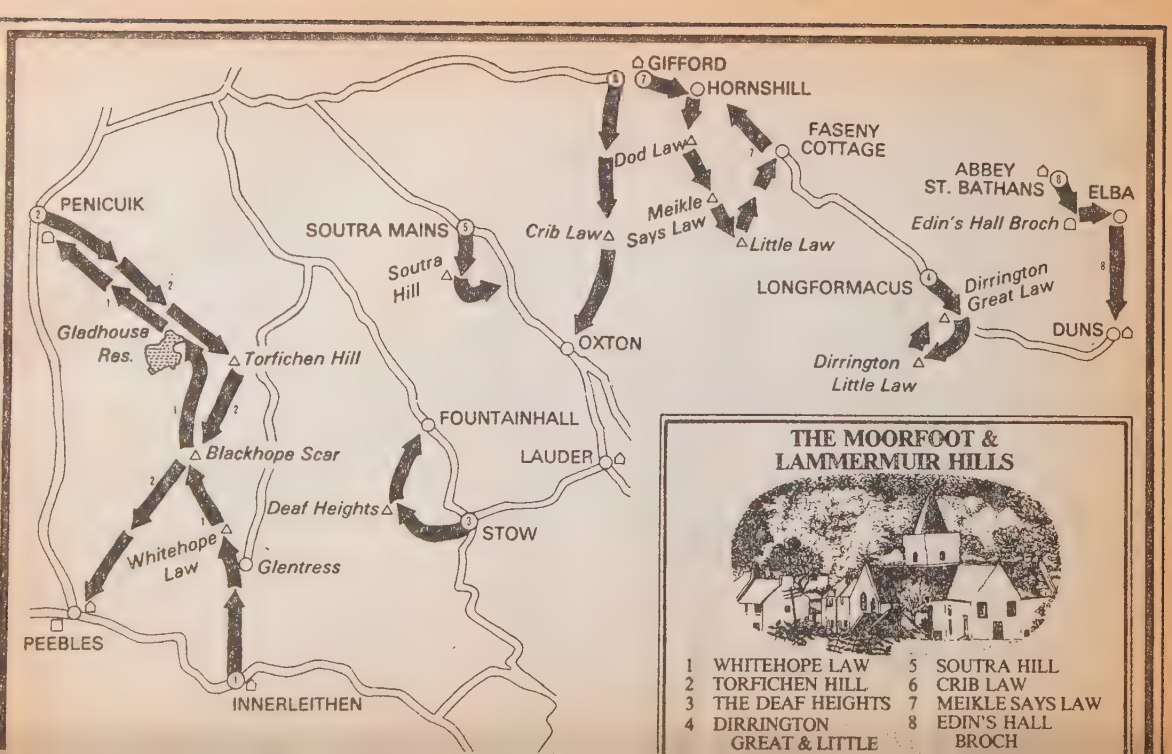
The Cleish Hills, between Dunfermline and Kinross, are one of a number of small ranges that are neglected by ramblers. The proximity of the Lomonds and the Ochils means they are relatively unexplored, by the same laws that explain the neglect of the Fintry Hills in favour of the Campsies near Glasgow. Although occupying less than 10 square miles and covered by forestry at the eastern end there are at least three rewarding walks to be had.

(1) Take the Perth bus from Dunfermline and alight a mile north of Kelty at the turn to Ballingry. Take the bridge across the M90 and follow this for two miles until it joins the road to Nivingston. On the main road turn left into the village of Cleish. Here Scott and his

Friends came to worship during the time of the Blairadam Club, which was founded by Adam Ferguson, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University and owner of Blairadam House. In this house, which was previously the home of Robert Adam and is now being restored, Scott was forced to admit that he was author of *The Abbot*. The church has burnt down but been rebuilt since then. Another claim to fame is that Mrs Mary Duncan, the minister's wife, was a famous hymn-writer although she died at 25 – as her marble memorial shows. An hour's walk will bring you back to the B996 and buses to Dunfermline.

(2) Take the Perth bus from Dunfermline and alight at Gairneybridge. Cross over the motorway and walk to Cleish. At Blackhill Plantation climb up where a network of burns descends to the road. At the top of Dumglow (1243 ft) look for the outlines of an ancient fort, then for a better view take the path to Wether Hill. Retrace your steps and head down towards Lurg Loch, passing another fort, until the road to Nivingston is reached. In a dry summer it is possible to explore round Loch Glow, which shrinks considerably in size in warm weather.

(3) Saline is a half-hour bus ride from Dunfermline, but there is no Sunday service. The most energetic walks can be taken from here, climbing Saline Hill (1178 ft) and Knock Hill (1194 ft). An easy return to the village is to the north by a path down to the farm road at West Lethans. On a Sunday descend eastwards from Knock Hill and walk four miles into Dunfermline for a bus.


GIFFORD
HORNSHILL
FASENY COTTAGE
Dod Law
Meikle Says Law
Little Law
Crib Law
ABBEY ST. BATHANS
ELBA
Edin's Hall Broch
PENICUIK
SOUTRA MAINS
Soutra Hill
LONGFORMACUS
Dirrington Great Law
DUNS
Gladhouse Res.
Torfichen Hill
OXTON
Dirrington Little Law
FOUNTAINHALL
Blackhope Scar
LAUDER
Deaf Heights
STOW
Whitehope Law
Glentress
PEEBLES
INNERLEITHEN
THE MOORFOOT & LAMMERMUIR HILLS
1 WHITEHOPE LAW
2 TORFICHEN HILL
3 THE DEAF HEIGHTS
4 DIRRINGTON GREAT & LITTLE
5 SOUTRA HILL
6 CRIB LAW
7 MEIKLE SAYS LAW
8 EDIN'S HALL BROCH

The Moorfoot and Lammermuir Hills

BETWEEN them these two ranges of hills provide around 200 square miles of walking country. The north of the Moorfoots stretches along an escarpment into the Lammermuirs, which run from Soutra Hill due east almost as far as St Abb's Head on the coast. Despite the vast area, there are no more than five tops over 2000 feet on the Moorfoots and these are not immediately to be distinguished; while the highest point on the Lammermuirs is 1749 feet.

The area is mainly treeless, but large tree trunks have been unearthed in these hills and many place names contain elements which indicate that there were once woods. Now the hillsides are given over mainly to sheep farming, and steadings are encountered at over 1000 feet. The uninterrupted open spaces will be welcome to the walker who likes an entire day to himself for a long distance stride with no worries about time or stragglers. There are small towns and villages to the north and south, so that the area is crossed by roads between Penicuik and Peebles, Dalkeith and Galashiels, Lauder to Duns, and others.

Unfortunately not all routes are provided with bus services. For some of these walks a car will be found necessary, and this may mean combining to share costs with other ramblers. Or perhaps a driving friend might be found willing, tempted by the prospect of a little fresh air. Car rambles are an increasingly common feature of rambling clubs nowadays, and it is sometimes possible – with a number of vehicles and drivers – to set out from different points and exchange keys at some mid-point. Even though this procedure may go against the grain, one has to admit the comfort of knowing that transport is waiting at the other end rather than a long wait for a missed bus or train.

WHITEHOPE LAW

Start at Innerleithen, finish at Penicuik. Road walking and hill climbs. 12 miles. OS sheet 73

Take the Galashiels bus from Edinburgh via Peebles and alight at Innerleithen. Take the Leithen Road which follows the Leithen Water north. Walking through this 19th-century mill town, note names such as Princes Street, Morningside, Strand and Piccadilly, chosen by an idiosyncratic Earl of Traquair who fancied the high life. Further information can be found in *Peebles to Innerleithen*. A three-mile road walk brings one to a track on the left leading to Whitehope Farm and from there the way up is obvious; the ascent from the road should take 20 minutes.

To be honest, the view is not spectacular from a top of just over 2000 feet, perhaps the sight of Peebles below the Glentress Forest is the most stirring. Lunch can be taken here or, if shelter is required, at the edge of the wood which will be passed on the way over Middle Hill to the north. Also pass over Gervald Punks and, skirting west of Blackhope Scar, find an unfenced road which follows the South Esk down to Gladhouse Reservoir. From here it's 5½ miles over country roads and fields to the outskirts of Penicuik.

A good time for this ramble is seven hours. It is not a walk that will cause gasps of admiration at the view, but there is some sense of satisfaction at making the journey from one mill town to another across some steep terrain and perhaps without having seen another soul.

TORFICHEN HILL AND BLACKHOPE SCAR

Start at Penicuik, finish at Peebles. Some walking on minor roads before some scrambling on broken hillsides. 17 miles. OS sheet 73

In Edwardian days young men set out from Edinburgh and did the walk to Peebles wearing blue suit, cloth cap and hard collar, probably with two batons in their fists to give impetus to the stride. Since ramblers come in all varieties, it is as well to stress that this is a ramble for the young and best done in early summer. As an advantage over our Edwardian friends, the bus may be taken to Penicuik. There take the B6372 from the south end of the town, over the old railway line; it is nearly four miles to Gladhouse Reservoir and dam. Keep the water on your right and follow the track leading to Mauldslie, then due east to the beginning of a road leading up the Blackhope Water past Wooly Law. The loose-limbed might also take in Torfichen Hill (1508 ft) on the way.

At the end of the track two burns meet. The way up Blackhope Scar (315484) is the bulge between them. The ground is mainly heather and bracken, so the ascent should take about an hour. From the top (2136 ft) the walker will look down on Peebles and the Glentress Forest. Descend either side of Bowbeat Hill and choose a forest path; the slope of the ground making the way obvious. It is about four miles from the end of the Moorfoots down to the beginning of the Forest Walk. The Glentress Forest comprises more than 20 acres of mature woodland. Below Caresman Hill are a number of walks marked by green posts with coloured rings. You are quite likely to meet orienteering types who should be able to put you right if you think you are lost.

Alternatively, look for the radio mast on Dunslair Heights and from here trace the aptly-named Soonhope Burn down to the Tweed. If you still have a thirst for history there may be a chance to look around Peebles whilst waiting for the bus (see *Black Dwarf's Cottage*).

THE DEAF HEIGHTS

Start at Stow and Finish at Fountainhall. 7–8 miles of heavy moor and hill walking. Map and compass essential. *OS sheet 73*

Take the Galashiels bus from Edinburgh and alight at the village of Stow, pronounced to rhyme with 'how' ('a clean-looking place with a fine church and spire' according to a Victorian guidebook). This can be an exercise in map and compass training if the mist comes down low, so memorise landmarks as you make your way. From the village cross the Gala Water and turn left until the track is seen leading up to Lugate Farm. Take the left fork just after the farm and climb towards Yardstone Knowe – nearly 1600 feet in two miles. From this ridge all the burns are on the right, heading north-north-west towards Dunlee Hill and Scroof Hill. Here drop down between Caddon Burn and Nether Shiels Burn and start climbing up to the plateau of the Deaf Heights (389445) (1864 ft). There is no explanation of the name apart from the obvious one. This is a fair climb, and if the mist starts to come down the climber is easily disheartened.

The way down is by Saughly Law (part of the Heights) to a farm track passing under Glenwhinnie Hill eastwards. Turn right along this and after a winding four-mile walk you will return to the A7 by Fountainhall. You will have been on the hills for four-five hours if the weather has been clear. Either walk back to Stow for some tea or wait for the bus back to Edinburgh.

DIRRINGTON GREAT AND LITTLE LAWS

Start and finish at Longformacus. Car necessary. 7–8 miles marshy hill walking. *OS sheet 67*

Although there are unlimited possibilities for easy rambles on the Lammermuirs there is some difficulty with access. As there is no public transport passing Longformacus (meaning 'the church in the field'), the starting-point of this walk, a car is the only alternative to 11 miles of roadwalking or thumbing for a lift. Turn left past the Rathbourne Hotel up to Rawburn cottage at the end of a track. From here head south-west towards a plantation near the source of Cross Burn. Then approach directly towards Little Law, ignoring the path on the right. The prospect from the top (1191 ft) shows just how much moorland stretches in all directions, with perhaps a hazy suggestion of the Forth and the East Lothian coast.

Head down to the north, picking the path leading to Kippetlaw. As Great Law (698549) is more or less conical, one way up is as good as another. The top is 1309 feet and it is possible to see the Eildon Hills to the south. If this walk is done in high summer there are many sheltered gullies for sunbathing and a number of burns where a dip can be taken.

For another view return to Duns and take the Gifford road as far as Cranshaws. Here there is one of the best-preserved peel towers in the Borders, but it belongs to a private house. The village features in Scott's *The Bride of Lammermoor*. Continue up the Whiteadder valley to the reservoir, created recently by an earth dam between Hungry Snout and Friar's Nose Fort to contain $6^{3}/_{4}$ million gallons for towns in East Lothian. The road continues up over Newlands Hill before descending to Gifford (see *Crib Law*). Look out for Green Castle Fort on the left, one of more than a dozen Iron Age forts strung along the north escarpment of the Lammermuirs. For enthusiasts there is a motor trail booklet which mentions all the notable archaeological features in the area.

SOUTRA HILL

Start at Soutra Mains (A68), finish at Pathhead. 5–6 miles moor or hill walking. *OS sheet 66*

Take the Galashiels or Earlston Bus and alight just after Fala. For the rambler the area is a delight, as there are at least 10 tops of a thousand feet or more; from these the view is of cultivated fields with hedges and farm touns nestling in folds of the hills with clumps of trees for further protection from the wind.

A sight that most present-day ramblers would welcome is some movement on the old railway line to Galashiels, for the meandering journey through the valleys would be both useful and scenic. An unexpected 20th-century bonus is the lines of pylons which can be useful direction finders if the mist comes down.

From the top of Soutra Hill (45959, 1209 ft) can be seen the remains of a Roman road between Kirktonhill and Dun Law, but our way lies south-west to Soutra Aisle, the remains of a 12th-century hospice founded in the time of Malcolm Canmore and his Saxon wife Margaret. From here follow the line of the pylons to Crichton, and Pathhead will be reached within 1½ hours of leaving Soutra.

If the weather looks uncertain, from the top of Soutra return to Soutra Mains and take the road north-east to Humbie. Below the village is the children's village, a group of residential cottages on a slight hillside; the school caters for both handicapped and normal children.

From here take the B6371 to the 18th-century market village of Ormiston, one of the first model estates to be built under the agricultural revolution that made such a mark on this area. The round trip to Pathhead will make eight miles of road walking, giving many enchanting views over hedges and through clumps of trees. One of the advantages of walking minor roads is the chance encounters with locals who are usually only too happy to point a stranger in the right direction and supply information not found in the guide books.

CRIB LAW

Start at Gifford, finish at Oxton. Hill tracks leading to over 1700 ft. 11 miles easy going. *OS sheet 66*

This walk is designed to acquaint the rambler with the north-west part of the Lammermuirs where they descend towards Soutra Hill. Take the Haddington bus from Edinburgh to Gifford. This is an attractive village of whitewashed cottages, largely restored in the late 18th century, when a new road was built and the thatched roofs replaced with slates. The church was built 1708–10 on a T-shape plan and there are some interesting gravestones. Yester House was built in 1699 and has a fine avenue of beeches and limes leading up to the gates.

Leave the village by the B6355, turning left to Yester Mains and then up to Longyester. From here a track leads through Blinkbonny

Wood to a disused quarry and almost due south to Crib Law (525598, 1670 ft). A diversion can be made to the top of Lammer Law (1733 ft) for a view down into Lauderdale and the surrounding hills.

On some rambles it is a delight to look for odd names and speculate on their origin. In this area are Priest Law and Friar's Nose, which one may suppose to date from pre-Reformation times; in fact, the latter refers to a hut circle from pre-history and one wonders how the early map-makers decided on a name. Whereas Bleak Law and Windy Law seem obvious enough, the curiosity is whetted by names like Widow's Knowe (an earlier form of 'knoll') whereby a tale must hang.

From Crib Law the path leads south to the standing stone at Tollishill and from here it's three miles of steadily improving track down to the Carfraemill Hotel, a fishing inn. Carfrae means 'the camp on the border' and probably harks back to the steady Anglo-Saxon advance in the sixth and seventh centuries into Scotland.

From Carfraemill walk the half mile on to the A68 up to the turn to Oxton and wait here for buses from Earlston and Jedburgh to be back in Edinburgh in just over an hour.

MEIKLE SAYS LAW

Start and finish at Gifford. 11 miles roads and moorland.
OS sheet 67

This walk takes in the north section of the Lammermuirs with its more spectacular scenery and is a counterpart to the Great and Little Dirrington Laws. The Haddington bus from Edinburgh takes one to Gifford, but a car would save six miles of road walking.

From Gifford take the Longformacus road which climbs steadily through pasture land and reaches the crossroads at Hornshill after three miles. Turn right over the Danskine Burn and follow the road to Newlands where a track goes left on to the moor towards the Iron Age fort at Green Castle. There is another fort obscured by woodland at Black Castle.

From Green Castle head for Dod Law and then Harestone Hill. From here Meikle Says Law (581618) is clearly visible to the south-east on the edge of the Border Region. From the top (1748 ft) there are views east over the Whiteadder Valley to Moynut Edge. Due north the village of Garvald can be seen with the new Abbey of Nunraw. This community of Cistercian monks came from Ireland

in 1948 and run a guest house scheme whereby men and women can spend time here in retreat.

It is less than a mile to Little Says Law and the return journey is by Collar Law and back to the road at Faseny Cottage. One of the fascinations of these hills is the different faces they show from different angles and at different times of the year. This is what makes the rambler want to return and see how their appearance squares with memories of past visits.

EDIN'S HALL BROCH

Start and finish at Abbey St Bathans. Car ramble with 2–3 miles field tracks. *OS sheet 67*

This impressive monument is in the heart of the Lammermuirs and access is difficult for the non-driver. The only public transport is a postbus from Duns which starts at 7.45 am and passes Elba Wood; during term time there is a school minibus which returns to Duns at 3.15 pm. In this case it must be admitted that a car makes things easier.

To prolong the walk leave the car at Abbey St Bathans, a huddle of imposing villas but a misnomer nonetheless, since the original foundation was a priory with 12 Cistercian nuns. The priory was damaged in the 16th century and the remains incorporated into an attractive 19th-century parish church. In the graveyard are 18th-century headstones, bearing such symbols as the hourglass and the open book; round the back is a fragment showing quite clearly a pair of scissors and a tailor's iron.

Follow the road towards Preston, past the turreted Bathans House and up a steep hill. Where there is a sharp bend to the right you will see a white metal road sign saying TOOT. At this point there is a gate on the left leading down to a stream which must be crossed by a fallen tree trunk or barefoot wading. Climb the bank to find a marker post with two arrows pointing unhelpfully in opposite directions. For a mile-walk directly to the broch take the left fork and the path leads past a marsh, running parallel with the Whiteadder.

For those requiring a view strike upwards to see the flat-topped outline of Cockburn Law (1065 ft) due south. On the top are clear signs of fortification earthworks, and fine views are obtained in all directions – particularly of the hills to the south. Look north for the circular retreat house, belonging to the priory, and the circle of the broch (773604) on the nearer bank; descend towards it by an easy slope.

This is the remains of an exceptionally large broch, 80 feet in diameter with 15–20 feet walls. The complete structure would have sheltered about 50 people in the wall-cavities, with room for livestock in the middle (see also *Torwood Broch*). A notice explains that this broch was built on the site of an earlier fort.

The way to Duns is east alongside the wood, crossing two stiles; then take a track leading down to Elba Cottage where there is a footbridge over the Whiteadder. From here branch right towards Hoardweel Farm and the main road; either wait here for the school minibus or walk the four miles to Duns where there is an evening bus to Edinburgh via Earlston.

Cloich Hills
Glentress Forest
PEEBLES
STOW
LAUDER
INNERLEITHEN
GALASHIELS
Black Dwarf's Cottage
Traquair
Abbotsford
MELROSE
DRYBURGH
Langhaugh Hill
Broadmeadows
Eildon Hills
Blackhouse Heights
St. Mary's Loch
Loch Skeen
Grey Mare's Tail
MOFFAT
SCOTT COUNTRY
1 BLACK DWARF'S COTTAGE
2 ST MARY'S LOCH
3 PEEBLES TO INNERLEITHEN
4 GREY MARE'S TAIL
5 THE CLOICH HILLS
6 STOW TO LAUDER
7 AROUND GALASHIELS
8 MELROSE TO DRYBURGH ABBEY
9 THE EILDON HILLS
10 TRAQUAIR TO BROAD-MEADOWS

Scott Country

SOME people are surprised to hear that it is possible to get off an Edinburgh bus and walk to the English Border without entering a town or village on the way. Far from appearing wild and desolate, this countryside is immediately identifiable and one can strike up a friendship with such welcoming terrain. There is a feeling of belonging which is well expressed by the hero of Buchan's *John Burnet of Barns:* 'A great gladness rose in me when I looked at the hills, for they were the hills of my own country; I knew every glen and corrie, every water and little burn.'

However, this area of undulating hillsides and wide, smoothly-flowing rivers is principally associated with Sir Walter Scott. Not only were many of his novels set in the Borders, but he himself was brought up here by his grandparents and many years later he built the Gothic mansion of Abbotsford near Melrose. One of his first published works was the collected *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, consisting of traditional songs and ballads taken verbatim from the older folk in the closing years of the 18th century. He gave particular prominence to the 'raiding ballads (as they are called) relating to the forays and predatory incursions made upon the Borders'. It is as well to remember that these scenes of tranquillity were once the background to bitter feuds and general lawlessness.

For the walker, who prefers to forget its violent history, this area offers many delights. There is a profusion of ruined abbeys and stately homes to visit, or civilisation can be left behind by tramping on the Eildon Hills. Although the walking country looks unlimited on the map, it is unfortunate that large areas are being covered by dense plantations of conifers which will not resemble natural forests until the next century.

Bearing in mind the availability of bus services, the walks are mainly centred on Peebles and Galashiels where there are Information Centres.

BLACK DWARF'S COTTAGE

Start and finish at Peebles. 6 miles road and path walking.
OS sheet 73

Peebles has, like many Border towns, a particular interest for the visitor because there are few signs of industry; the High Street still has an unplanned look that betrays its role as a market town. There is a town walk (1 hour) starting from the Information Centre in the High Street which takes in the town's historic buildings. If there is not time for this, make a point of seeing the Cross Keys Inn, built in 1693 as a town house but later to become a tavern, whose 19th-century landlady was the original for Scott's hospitable Meg Dodds in *St Ronan's Well*. This is in Northgate, opposite the Mercat Cross, and the street name is a reminder that the town was not always as peaceful as now. After a number of attacks from across the Border a town wall was built in the 16th century; remains can be seen near the railway station (closed 1950) on the south bank of the Tweed.

Neidpath Castle lies a mile west of the town centre, and can be reached by passing through the Old Town or by following a path along the river. The castle has a dramatic site overlooking the Tweed which made it virtually impregnable, and in the 17th century a gatehouse and gardens were added (open summer only). The view from the top is spectacular. Continue along the river and under the impressive masonry of the viaduct built in 1864 for the Caledonian Railway Co, crossing the Tweed at the Manor Bridge. From here follow the road for $1^1/_2$ miles to Kirkton Manor; alternatively there is a post van to Kirkton Manor leaving Peebles PO about 2.40 pm. At the bridge over the Manor Water turn sharp right and then left at a T-junction; the Black Dwarf's Cottage (212371) will be found on the left a mile further on.

This miniature dwelling was built, supposedly singlehanded, by David Ritchie who was so physically misshapen that he preferred the life of a recluse whilst earning a living as a brushmaker. Scott visited here in 1797 before writing *The Black Dwarf*. The present building is a replacement, put up by a benefactor, but it retains the original low doorway. Ritchie died in 1811 and is buried in Kirkton Manor graveyard.

Return to Peebles by going south another mile to Castlehill and from the footbridge follow the path north through Cademuir and over Cademuir Hill to the south part of the town. This is known as King's Muir, a reminder that the town was favoured as a royal residence by the early Scottish kings. The 13th-century ruins of Alexander III's Crosskirk are to be found near the station.

T MARY'S LOCH

Start at Peebles, finish at Innerleithen. 5 miles of minor roads, then 8–9 miles undulating moorland. Summer walk. Map and compass necessary. *OS sheet 73*

Go west out of Peebles as for *Black Dwarf's Cottage* but continue own as far as Langhaugh (pronounced 'Langie') Farm. Here a reather should be taken to check the hills to the east against the nap; lying to the north is the mound named Macbeth's Castle, a uriosity since the king had no connections with the Borders. Make or Blackhouse Heights (2214 ft) to the south-east; from here the iew can be awesome as featureless hills stretch in all directions.

Using the compass to keep a southerly direction, the walker has a ne tramp over sheep-grazed moor and hill towards the loch, which oon becomes visible if one keeps to the heights. There are a number f paths leading down to the road by Megget Water, but some ecome grassed over and others can be part of a forestry plantation n a subsequent visit.

This area was once all part of the Ettrick Forest whose fringes ere marked by Selkirk, Peebles and Moffat, one of the last tracts of ncient Caledonian Forest to survive. It was royal hunting land, ith Newark Castle as the base, but despite this it was a useful place or outlaws and fugitive patriots to hide – both the Bruce and Vallace found it useful. Probably in the 16th century the deer, wild oars and perhaps wolves had to give way to sheep, so over the enturies the tree cover has been almost completely destroyed.

At the south end of St Mary's Loch is Tibbie Shiel's Inn run by abella Richardson (1824–78). It became known as a favourite eeting place for the Edinburgh literati; James Hogg, 'the Ettrick hepherd', is particularly associated with the place as he had a farm earby. Across the road is a monument to him and his dog Hector. n the road towards Selkirk is the Gordon Arms where Hogg first et Scott. There is a peacefulness around the shores of this loch hich will make the walker reluctant to leave.

However, the problem of getting home must be faced unless one planning to camp or stay in the area. Moffat and Selkirk are qually far away on the main road, and Innerleithen a good two ours walk. Depending on weather and time available, it may be es to retrace your steps. There was once a Youth Hostel near augh, but now a further five miles of road await the ot-traveller to Peebles.

PEEBLES TO INNERLEITHEN

Start at Glentress Forest, finish at Innerleithen or Walkerburn. 6–9 miles forest and ridge walking rising to over 1200 feet.

OS sheet 73

This is a forest walk starting either at the beginning of the Glentress Forest Centre two miles east of Peebles along the A72 or by taking the path beside the Soonhope Burn, joining the forestry road leading to Caresman Hill (1807 ft). As a rule ramblers do not enjoy following nature trails as they feel hemmed in by rather monotonous ranks of conifers. Most of Glentress was planted in the 1920s and the roads were built in the 1930s by the unemployed. The walker will soon notice (unless he is colour-blind – a thought that has not yet occurred to those who plan such things) the coloured posts marking the different walks. If you have started at the Forest Centre follow the red walk to its northernmost point and strike off for Caresman Hill.

From here head east for Horsburgh Hope (an old name for valley) and climb up the side of Black Law on to Black Knowe to come down by Mill Rig (ridge) to Lee Burn Head and Lee Pen. The walk from Peebles will have taken four hours and a place for a snack may be found above Innerleithen.

Behind a wood on the right will be found St Ronan's Wells, named after the patron saint of Innerleithen. They stand in the garden of the blue and white pump room (1896) in St Ronan's Terrace. Continue along a path to Caerlee Hill; here every July the Cleikum Ceremony takes place, recalling the story of St Ronan who struck or 'cleiked' the devil. This is the culmination of a week of sports and celebrations which has been going on in the town for over 150 years and used to be attended by Scott and the Edinburgh literati and, of course, by James Hogg 'the Ettrick Shepherd' (see *St Mary's Loch*).

Weaving has always been a regular occupation of this area, and the Hodden Grey cloth made of undyed wool was probably being produced in medieval times or earlier. Innerleithen is mainly a 19th-century town. In 1790 Alexander Brodie started the first woollen mill here. The town is still a large producer of knitwear and the mill buildings are largely in use. For further background a visit should be made to the Museum of Wool Textiles at Walkerburn; cross the Tweed by the old railway bridge and follow the line for just over a mile until the road into the village is reached. The museum is next to Ballantyne's Mill.

GREY MARE'S TAIL AND DEVIL'S BEEF TUB

Start and finish at Edinburgh. A car run with two stopping points. 112 miles. *OS sheet 78*

This is a triangular run of 112 miles, taking in parts of previous walks and the area between the Tweed and the Moffat Water. Both spots could be visited in a day by the walker based in Moffat.

For those with cars there is a drive of 44 miles from Edinburgh down the A701 to Tweedwell, which is the source of the Tweed and a chance to stretch the legs. Two miles on look for a sign to the left saying Devil's Beef Tub. The steep sides of the valley rise to over 1000 feet and it was an ideal place to hide stolen cattle – hence the name. Nearby is a Covenanter's memorial; it is to John Hunter who, while on a visit to a sick friend, was shot by dragoons. In these Killing Times of the 1670s and 80s there were no trials, just informers and guilt by association.

It is another four miles to Moffat, a favourite 19th-century place to take the waters, and there were baths and assembly rooms for this purpose. It lies in a natural amphitheatre at the head of Annandale. Our way lies north-east on the A708 to Selkirk and the Grey Mare's Tail is reached after 12 miles. Here the road is at about 1000 feet and the falls are about 200 feet. The sheer cliffs of Bell Craig are quite different from anything else in the Borders and Scott found the scene frightful. (He wrote: 'it would be impossible to picture anything more desolately savage').

From the car park walk up to Loch Skeene where the Fall Burn rises. On the left is White Coomb (2695 ft), but for a fairly easy view head for the top of Lochcraig (2623 ft) from which can be seen further hills to the north and Talla Reservoir. Returning to the falls, it is advisable to keep to the paths and not venture off the beaten track for a more dramatic photograph.

The road home is by St Mary's Loch (see previous rambles) and up to Peebles via Innerleithen. This is a wet-weather route, since the falls are particularly impressive after a few days of rain.

THE CLOICH HILLS

Start at Peebles, finish at Penicuik. About 10 miles of forest and hill walks and disused railway track. *OS sheet 73*

These hills (derivation from Gaelic, probably meaning 'stone') are mainly covered in forest and of little historical interest; but there is the challenge of finding one's way through a large acreage of forest and emerging at the correct spot according to the map.

From Peebles the way is north-west past a camping site called Rosetta after the house and estate; there is a little museum where there is a miniature facsimile of the Rosetta Stone. Continue up the road, past a house puzzlingly called Standalane, until the track turns into a path leading round Hamilton Hill to Upper Kidston. If time permits, head towards White Meldon and look for the prehistoric remains marked on the map. Many of these settlements are almost impossible to discover at ground level; the reason for there being so many is probably the alteration of the water table or the appearance and disappearance of springs. Descend towards the road going between White Meldon and Green Knowe; cross this and follow a parallel path to the farm of Stewarton. At the end of the farm road a path leads into the wood; a forestry road leading north will be found at a farm marked 'Greenside or Courhope' and this leads to another farm called Cloich. Follow the road around the edge of the wood and strike up to White Rig (1062 ft) where a bird's eye view of the way ahead can be obtained.

From here the way is north to Wester Deanshouse and after half a mile there is a left turn until the disused railway embankment is reached. This is part of the Dolphinton-Leadburn line which was closed in 1933 and it can be followed through Leadburn almost into Penicuik. A road to the left past Ravensneuk Farm leads to Penicuik House and the flag tower and obelisk raised in memory of Allan Ramsay the poet; beyond are the ruins of Brunstane Castle. If it is too rough going for tired feet, head off to the A6094 when the loch is reached and enter Penicuik via Howgate.

On the east side of the town are a number of mills for paper-making; the 'grey paper of Penicuik' was taken as part of the Darien expedition's cargo and there is the original Bank Mill specialising in paper for bank notes. Unfortunately many of the mills have closed down in recent years. Visit the old church to see a memorial to the Howgate carrier James Noble and his wife. It has a dog's head carved on it. The writer S. R. Crocket lived here as minister for 10 years.

STOW TO LAUDER

Start at Stow, finish at Lauder. 5–6 miles of easy gradients with one climb over moorland. *OS sheet 73*

Stow (rhyming with 'how') is reached in 1½ hours from Edinburgh on the Carlisle bus. Walk south to the church. Notice the restored packhorse bridge; as packhorses carried loads slung on their sides

the parapets needed to be exceptionally low, although some had a rail on one side for the packhorse man. Head up through the village towards the cemetery and past Muirhouse Farm. A way will be seen between two strips of woodland. From here ascend an unnamed hill of about 1200 feet north of Sell Moor to see the view. Descend towards Allanshaws and take the road to the north end of the loch; where this track joins another, head north-east to Muircleugh Stell (meaning 'sheepfold') and join a road leading east under a line of pylons to Muircleugh and then take the path following the Lauder Burn.

An alternative is to keep north of the B6362 by heading through Killochyett to the hillside clachan of Cathpair south of Tartan Hill (1070 ft). From here cross the broad valley to Brown Rig, and from here past the power lines to Scarce Law and down to Lauder, which has the status of a royal burgh. The Information Centre is in the town jail or tolbooth (now the Town Hall) in the High Street. With an hour to spare, Thirlstane Castle is worth visiting. It is a 17th-century house built on the site of a church and stands in attractive grounds. Major repairs were carried out in the reign of Charles II, when royal masons were probably employed. In front of the original castle James III's favourites were hanged by dissident nobles headed by the Earl of Angus; the incident was known as 'belling the cat' because the humbly-born favourites were considered to be treacherous.

Lauder Common is a particularly windswept area; sometimes a gust of wind can send you flying. In which case stick to the road for the most direct way across. Buses from Earlston make the journey to Edinburgh in 1¼ hours; this ramble could be done by two car parties meeting in the middle and exchanging keys.

AROUND GALASHIELS

Start and finish at Galashiels. 6 miles road and moor walking.
OS sheet 73

Galashiels, with a population of over 13,000, is the second largest town in the Borders after Hawick. It is largely a 19th-century mill town, but with ancient origins; each year on the first Saturday in July is the Braw Lads Gathering, commemorating the wedding of James IV, and there are records of the Beltane Fire being lit on the top of William Law on May 1st.

The Information Centre is at the foot of St John Street opposite the Reiver statue and from here walk up Albert Street on to the A7.

Look for the plaque telling the story of how Scott's carriage, bearing him back to Abbotsford to die, paused to allow him his last view of Abbotsford across the Tweed. As soon as the Tweed is crossed look for a minor road on the right leading to Abbotsford. The house (open April-October) took seven years to build on the site of a farm called Cartleyhole (some say Clarty Hole) owned by the monks of Melrose. It is still inhabited by Scott's descendants and contains his library of 20,000 books, family portraits and a collection of armour. He died here in 1832 after spending the last seven years of his life writing prodigiously to clear personal debts incurred when Ballantynes the printers went bankrupt. Among the many personal effects to be seen is his cheque book; a guided tour will reveal many delights, and there is a tea-room and craft shop to be visited. Above the west entrance is a door from Edinburgh's Tolbooth (see *The Royal Mile*).

The best way to return to Galashiels is to continue south along the B6360 and on to the A7. Half a mile from the junction is the turn across the Tweed to Sunderland Hall, restored in 1850. This was the home of Andrew Plummer, a local antiquarian; Scott made use of his extensive library.

Follow the driveway through the woods and then cross the A707 to continue through Raelees Wood until Yar bridge. At Clovenfords was The Nest, the home of the Edinburgh Angling Club, and the pool at Yair was fished by such literary figures as Professor John Wilson and Andrew Lang. Scott laid the foundation stone of this bridge and the one across the Tweed to Sunderland Hall.

Cross the Ettrick and take the farm road past Fairmilee which leads to a path going north-east. This will bring you into Gala Park at the top of the town and a pleasant walk down to the bus station. Gala House, partly a 16th-century tower house, may be visited; or wander round the town where there are many curiosities to be seen.

MELROSE TO DRYBURGH ABBEY

Start at Melrose, finish at St Boswells. 5 miles road walking.
OS sheet 73

There are regular buses to Melrose via Earlston, and the journey takes two hours. Situated at the foot of the Eildon Hills, Melrose has always had religious associations but the present Abbey dates back to the 12th century, when David I invited Cistercian monks from Rievaulx Abbey to establish a foundation on the Tweed. It was destroyed by English armies in 1322 and 1545; on the last occasion the ruins were left more or less untouched for 300 years until partly

adapted as a parish church. This ruin was praised by Scott for its romantic associations, and it is also the burial place of Michael Scott. He was a learned astrologer, linguist and physician who travelled widely in 13th-century Europe, returning with honour to Scotland where he gained the reputation of being involved in necromancy. The three peaks of the Eildons were apparently caused by his power over the devil; his book of spells was said to have been buried with him.

An afternoon could be spent in Melrose, but two hours must be allowed for the walk to Dryburgh Abbey. Leave by the Jedburgh road but branch left for a minor road that goes across the old railway cutting (closed 1969), down through Newstead (where the stone masons lived) to Leaderfoot, where the Tweed is crossed. From here it is 1½ miles to Scott's View on Bemersyde Hill (747 ft). Here the writer spent many an hour contemplating the Eildon Hills; the rambler, having done so, will be itching to set foot on them, but this is a historical or 'heritage' walk. We go south and after a T-junction see Bemersyde House on the left. This is the 16th-century mansion and peel tower presented to General Haig in 1919 and still lived in by the family. Another mile brings us to Dryburgh Abbey.

An alternative shorter route, leaving out Scott's View, is to take the path from Newstead to Ravenswood and follow the course of the Tweed, taking in Old Melrose and the site of the earliest abbeys. There is a footbridge just opposite Dryburgh Abbey. The abbey lands of Dryburgh once belonged to Sir Walter Scott's forebears and they retained the right to be buried there. The present ruins are 12th-century, standing in parkland contained by a bow of the Tweed. The abbey was burnt by Richard II in 1385, so there is much later Gothic work especially in the monastic buildings. Within the park are many tree types, including a cedar from the Atlas Mountains. As well as Scott's grave, look for the simple headstone of Earl Haig and that of Scott's son-in-law and biographer, J. G. Lockhart, also a novelist.

If there is time, take the path north to Wallace's Statue, erected in 1814 by The Earl of Buchan. The sandstone figure is 21 feet high and was built by John Smith of Darnick, the builder of Abbotsford. Apart from a statuette in Ayr, this was the first monument erected in memory of Sir William Wallace. In 1819 there was an abortive plan to build a monument on Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh.

Cross the footbridge then follow the path round the horseshoe bend of the river and up to St Boswells with its large green. Here in July the travelling people meet for the Horse Fair. The bus from Jedburgh goes from here to Edinburgh via Earlston and takes 1¾ hours.

THE EILDON HILLS

Start and finish at Melrose. 5–7 miles of hill walking depending on route. *OS sheet 73*

From Melrose there is a signposted walk on to the Eildons from the Dingleton road; an alternative way is to go via Newstead (see *Melrose to Dryburgh Abbey*). The most direct way is to climb to the saddle between the two highest peaks, visit the Roman signal station and return by the Newstead path. For those wanting an easier stroll, a path through the golf-course along the west side of the hills leads from the south-west up to the Middle Hill (1385 ft). The Wester Hill (1216 ft) tends to be overlooked but it gives a view of Selkirk and the Tweed valley. From the North Hill (1327 ft) the view to the south-west is blocked, but in every other direction it is spectacular. To the east the Cheviots look like an unending wall and to the north-east is Hume Castle. To the north is the North Sea, while to the west are views along the Tweed valley towards Peebles.

If returning to Melrose from the south, the walk can be extended by taking in the village of Darnick. Here is 15th-century Darnick Tower, built by the Heiton family who still inhabit it. It is one of the best-preserved tower houses and Scott was keen to buy it. Small parties can be shown round by arrangement. If returning by Newstead, visit the site of the Roman fort of Trimontium which, being built of timber, has only survived as earthworks. From here head west for the path along the south bank of the Tweed and taking in a defensive wall called the Battery, built to restrain the meanderings of the river. Near Newstead can be seen the old course of the river.

The Eildons were formed by volcanic cones bursting through the old red sandstone or forcing it into a dome shape. They have an everlasting quality which has been recognised by all who have visited them, and their devotees have the same kind of loyalty as those admirers of Iona, Loch Lomondside and the Pentlands. In 1757, some years before Sir Walter, Andrew Scott of Bowden wrote:

O Eildon Hills, huge sisters three,
As fair you rise as ony;
Scotia has higher hill than thee
But few gleam half as bonny.

TRAQUAIR TO BROADMEADOWS

Start at Innerleithen, finish at Selkirk. 7 miles of hill and forest walks, plus 5 miles of road walking. OS sheet 73

This is a walk which will probably bring back nostalgic memories for the older rambler, because in 1931 the first Youth Hostel in Scotland was opened at Broadmeadows. Ramblers in those far-off days could be seen in heavy tweed jackets and shorts or, girls, in heavy skirts and silk blouses. For those of another generation the walk will mean less, but it takes in a neglected area criss-crossed by paths and drove roads.

From Innerleithen the walk to Traquair is along a minor road. The House, with its pottery and brewhouse, is worth visiting for its homely quality and peaceful grounds; allow three hours for the walk ahead and another hour to reach Selkirk on foot. Branch off the B709 at The Riggs and follow an unfenced road leading through trees. Take the left fork to pass north of Minch Moor, actually a hill at over 1600 feet. From here the path should be obvious, but further tree-planting can make precise directions misleading.

Join the Old Drove Road at Brown Knowe (1718 ft) and after about a mile look for a path on the right descending to a road by the Gruntly Burn which leads down to the Youth Hostel. A visit should be made for historical reasons if no other; the photograph of the opening ceremony is on display in the common room.

Continue south to the River Yarrow which has literary associations through Wordsworth's three visits. On the second James Hogg was his guide and took him to St Mary's Loch and to Newark Castle on the south bank of the river. The tower is 15th-century and has chambers in the thick walls, although it was mainly used as a hunting seat by the Stuarts. On the west wall it bears the arms of James I. After the break-up of the forests it became the home of the Scotts of Buccleuch, and from here Bold Buccleuch set out to make the daring rescue of Willie Armstrong from Carlisle Castle in 1595.

In the 18th century the Scotts built the first house at Bowhill, a mile downstream, but the present house dates mainly from 1812 and contains many objets d'art. The terraced lawns give a fine view of the farms and woods between the Ettrick and the Yarrow and tea can be taken in the converted stables before the two-mile walk to Selkirk.

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Sydney Smith

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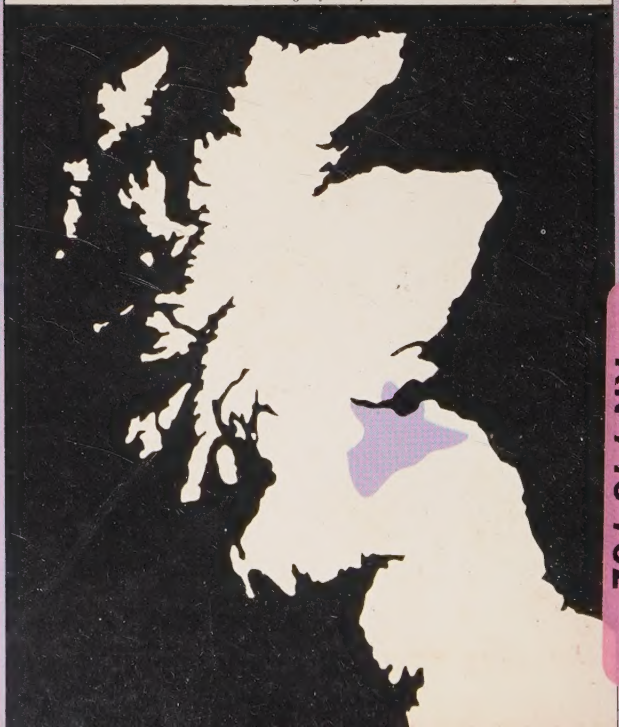

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